Treasure hunt for time capsule

Way, way back in 1966 (you can say that if you were born anytime after 1977) a time capsule was buried to mark Dapto Primary School's 90th anniversary.

The idea was that the monument 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 golfer colony.

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

"It's been a bit of a gold dig, but we haven't hit pay dirt 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, so if you were paying attention in school in 1966 give Short Order a call.

Dapto Primary School Year Five students Catherine Emery, 10, and Katie Robinson, 11, join the hunt for a time capsule buried on school grounds in 1966.
Dapto 1876-1991

Dapto Public School was established in 1876 on the site of the present Dapto Public School. It was originally known as the Dapto District School. By the end of 1913, the school was known as Dapto Central School. In 1925, it was renamed Dapto Public School. In 1977, the school received its current name, Dapto Public School.

In 1953, the school underwent a significant expansion, with the addition of new classrooms and a new staff room. The school's population continued to grow, and further building extensions were added. Today, the school is home to approximately 600 students.

What's in a name?

Throughout its history, Dapto Public School has undergone several name changes, reflecting the growth and development of the local community.

Helpful parents

Parents and teachers are an integral part of the school and work closely with the administration to ensure the best possible outcomes for students.

Learning to think...

The Dapto Public School has a strong emphasis on critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The school offers a range of academic and extra-curricular activities to support these skills.

Student Council

Dapto Public School has a student council, which is elected by the students. The council is responsible for organizing events and activities.

Aussie of the Month

Aussie of the Month is an award given to a student who has demonstrated outstanding behavior and contribution to the school community.

Sport has a proud history at our school

Dapto Public School has a long and proud history in sport. Students have excelled in a variety of sports, including rugby, football, netball, and swimming.

Environmental education

The school is committed to environmental education, with a focus on sustainability and conservation.

Camping out on the farm

Camping out on the farm is a popular activity for students, providing an opportunity to learn about agriculture and rural life.

Environmental education

The school offers a range of programs to promote environmental awareness, including recycling, composting, and water conservation.

Young environmentalists

A group of students is passionate about protecting the environment and is working to raise awareness among their peers.

School of the Week

Dapto Public School is the School of the Week, recognized for its commitment to excellence in education and community service.
DAPTO’S EYESORE

HOW IT LOOKS TODAY

Zoning issues stall plans for school site’s renewal

BY COURTNEY THOMAS

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

The school held its last classes in 2009 and students have since moved into their new state-of-the-art facilities in Huskisson.

The old School 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 Education and Training wants to sell the land but a waiting list for Wollongong City Council to decide whether or not it will resume the site. The site is on a high 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 re-develop Dapto as a town centre, with community workshops and commercial spaces.

Proposals include keeping it for residential rezoning.

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 next year.