



## Tribute to Mark King our retiring Principal

Mark started his teaching career in 1984 as a Science Teacher at James Meehan High. Prior to that he did a double degree and was head hunted (this is what Mark says) by the Public Service but he found that boring so he decided to give teaching a go.

After James Meehan High, he taught at Canobolas Rural Technology High. He was then promoted as Head Teacher Science at Lithgow High and then to Deputy Principal at Narooma High. He was then promoted to Barham High as Principal and took up his current at Corrimal High in 2011.

- He was a Representative on the Regional Principals Executive group.
- Principal Representative on Mental Health Steering Committee.
- Principal Representative on the State Health and Safety Reference Group.

Mark has never been a micro manager, allowing teachers to get on to doing what they are best at, that is teaching. This is evident, by the letter from Murat Dizdar – Deputy Secretary School Operations and Performance congratulating our school of our outstanding 2017 Higher School Certificate results.

Mark has a wealth of knowledge on Department policy and is quick to give advice, so he has been very supportive in that area.

He is approachable with an open door policy but when the door is closed and the bagpipes are playing that means he is busy working on educational outcomes for his school. He does have a quirky sense of music. He even likes the spice girls, but his music genre is wide and varied although most people would not like his tastes.

He had faith in his executive team to run the school and has given each the opportunity to develop and aspire. As one teacher said” he empowers teachers and Executive to be leaders of the school”.

- He has empathy for all that seek enrolment in the school that others have turned away.
- He has supported digital technology in the school forming STEM classes in the middle school.
- He is considered and moderate in his response to difficult issues that arise in the school. As one teacher said” he will listen to people’s points of view and even if he doesn’t agree will not make you feel inferior”.

As I have said, he is different, quirky, he likes Dr Who and has a Tardis and Star Wars figurines in his office. However, his left of field jokes always give the staff a good laugh.

He has told me that he is a gamer in his spare time. He is a committed family man having two sons and a daughter that he is quite involved with. His Mum, who is getting on in age is forever ringing him and his response is always the same, that of a caring son. He is also known for his tastes in exotic teas. His office staff talk about the smells of his Mumbai tea filling the corridors.

On behalf of the staff we wish you well in retirement, just think, no more ties or those boring meetings.

Ross Graham