



Media Alert

1 December 2011

After 40 years, this teacher's legacy is a lasting one

One of the Central Coast region's longest serving teachers is retiring at the end of 2011, ending a 40 year career that began at Central Mangrove Public School in 1971.

Paul Maish, now a primary school teacher at Lakes Grammar - an Anglican School at Warnervale, says he will miss the joys of teaching young children learn important life skills and believes more young men are needed in the primary school education system.

"Young students need good male role models; role models they may not have at home," Mr Maish said. "They may only see dad on the weekend, so it's important that they have access to male role models in the school environment."

"Men do teach differently than women; we're a bit more rough around the edges, and I think boys especially need that. It makes them feel more secure having that daily element of fair but firm discipline from a male role model."

Mr Maish said that Lakes Grammar strives to maintain a balance of male and female teachers in kindergarten to Year 6, with men currently making up almost half the teaching staff.

But he said that it is difficult to keep this balance, as it seems men are less inclined these days to go into teaching at a primary level.

Mr Maish graduated from Bathurst Teachers College in 1968 before being conscripted into the armed forces during the Vietnam War.

After a two-year stint in the army, Paul began his teaching career on the Central Coast, teaching at a number of schools before joining Lakes Anglican Grammar School in 1999, then moving to Lakes Grammar in 2005.

Media enquiries

Contact Chris Day 0447 286 699