
FAREWELL TO KAPUNDA HIGH SCHOOL

I came into teaching late, spending my first 12 years working in the wine industry; 10 years as a laboratory technician. I had my first taste of Kapunda High School in 1986 in a six week prac. teaching block. At the beginning of 1993, as a permanent teacher, I was sent to Kapunda High until I could be placed permanently. At that time, the school only had about 250 students. Within a few weeks, that placement was made permanent and I settled into life at KHS teaching Maths, Science, a few PE classes and organising Computing as a subject in the school. For the last few years though, I have only taught Science.

One of my keen interests has always been outdoor activities, so I took every opportunity to become involved in the Year 9 and 10 camps. and within a few years I took on the main role of managing them. Over the years, I have had many memorable experiences on camps, not only getting to know the students better, but also colleagues I went with. For a number of years I managed the Duke of Ed program here with a number of students gaining different levels of the Award. I was involved in organising several groups of students from KHS to do Sail Training voyages on the *One & All*. I have always been passionate about the value of these types of activities, as I believe they play a vital role in developing the resilience and self-confidence that young adults graduating from high school need.

In my 30 years of teaching I have spent 25 of them here at Kapunda. I have had the pleasure of working with many interesting, dedicated and talented individuals. The staff's good humour, friendly supportive nature, willingness to have a go at some of the unusual staff / student activities that occur here has made it easy for everyone to quickly feel like part of the KHS family. I have always believed that education is about people and the personal interactions along the way.

As a Year Level Manager I have spent many hours dealing with a range of issues, working with hundreds of students, seeing them grow in the school culture, encouraging them with science and watching them develop into young adults. The students that have passed through KHS over the years have been great people, enthusiastic, friendly and generally good humoured.

I have loved working here at Kapunda High School and I have never felt it a chore to come to work. It's a special place with terrific people. It's been a great time.

Rob van der Wijngaart
1993 - 2017