



GOING THE DISTANCE

Peter White arrived at Pittsworth State High School in 1973. This was not his first posting but it was his last as he went on to work as a Maths/Science teacher specialising in Physics until 2007. Originally trained as a Chemistry teacher, Mr White was at the forefront of Physics and is also a keen astronomer involved in various Astronomy nights held at the school.

The annual trip to Glenarvon involved not only Peter White but also his wife Joan who was not only a dab hand in the catering department but was also very good in the field of plant identification. Peter and Joan also became skilled in aspects of Athletics with Peter a talented Starter and Joan on the job of measuring in the Long Jump Pit. Both attended the Sydney Olympics and Paralympics in 2000 which was a fine reward for their efforts in this field over many years.

Peter White was also a talented Advanced Maths teacher (as they called it in the day) and his enthusiasm for the subject was contagious. Son Russell was named Dux of the School in 1996.

After 34 years at Pittsworth State High School, Peter tossed away the chalk in 2007 but not before he had etched himself into the annals of our history as the longest serving teacher.

Rob Raymond was wont to quote Gertrude Stein noting that 'Art isn't everything, but it's about everything'. When he left the school in 2008 Rob was at pains to note that he had tried to bring creativity into his endeavours at school and that the students would be the people he missed most contending that he was their 'servant'.

Rob certainly threw himself into the extracurricular aspects of the school providing students and staff with many opportunities to explore their creative dimension. He was part of a team that produced fantastic musicals for the school and community and was a debating coach for many years despite the frustrations, he noted, of working with one particular team. They were very talented but not that keen on preparation! He was able to get the school magazine off the ground after two years without one and was always keen to acknowledge the creative talents of students either with the musical or with the Craftsman of the Year Awards.

Rob was also keen to provide some entertainment of his own at school events with the odd cameo in the musicals. In 1977 Senior Art students put on a puppet show for pre schoolers and Mr Raymond played 'Big Daddy'; he was narrator for the stories and handed out the lollies. At a Roman evening, Rob clad himself in a red sheet, gold belt and took to a 3 stringed fiddle as he imitated Nero.

Finally Rob had an eye to the future at Pittsworth State High School. He organised the remodelling of the Art room and pushed for the purchase of additional equipment to keep up to speed with technological advances especially in computing and photography. He also played a part in the movement of the Rossvale School to Pittsworth State High School as it was established as the Music Centre.

Rob's children also attended our school and contributed, like their father and mother Dot, heavily to our successes in the academic and cultural arenas. Their daughter Leigh, an outstanding musician, will be performing at the Jubilee concert this Friday night.

Many of our staff have been long standing members of our school community and many still live in the area. Saturday's festivities will provide an opportunity to catch up with many of our staff – past and present.