

Primary entry #9: Largs Public School



Largs Lantern



HIGH FLYER: Phil Unicomb with his 1931 Tiger Moth.

Magnificent Phil in his flying Moth

By **LARA UNICOMB**

TO celebrate 175 years of education at Largs Public School this year, Phil Unicomb will perform a flying display over the school in his yellow 1931 Tiger Moth.

The Unicomb family came from Sussex, England, in 1838 as a pioneering family.

They were given land grants and have lived at Largs since 1839. Mr Unicomb has a long family history of attendance at Largs Public School and went there himself.

He judges aerobatic competitions all around Australia and is the chief flying instructor of the Royal Newcastle Aero Club.

In 1992 Mr Unicomb won the World Aerobatic Championships in England, flying one of his favourite aeroplanes, the Tiger Moth.

A few years ago, Mr Unicomb had a flying accident which resulted in his back being broken in three places. Thankfully he has now recovered and is back in the air.

In his aerobatic display, Mr Unicomb will be performing manoeuvres such as wing overs, loops, rolls, spins and maybe even a "streamer cut", where a streamer is thrown from the plane and gracefully cut into pieces with the wings.

Mr Unicomb says he was honoured to join the important event.

"I have always held a great affection for Largs Public and am only too pleased to be involved in the school's celebration," he said.

By **HUGH LANNEN**

THIS year Largs Public School will be celebrating an impressive 175 years of education.

It is the oldest public school in continuous operation in Australia, first established as a church school in 1838 by Andrew Lang at a personal cost of \$75.

The Public Instruction Act of 1848 then resulted in the school being established as a public school in 1849.

The original school building – now the school's library – was built to hold 75 students. In 1903 another room was added to hold a further 55 students. This room is now deemed too small to be a classroom and is used for small group learning and to hold resources.

The school was originally called Dunmore School, named after Dunmore Estate. It was changed to Largs Public School in 1892 after the newly formed township.

The school has been part of many changes and initiatives over the years. In 1908 the school's first P&C was established, in 1948 an electric light was installed, the tuckshop started in 1962 and was held once a month. School uniforms were introduced in 1964 and the sewerage was connected in 1988.

An old bush school/museum was established on the site in 1988. It was originally a house built in the



A PIECE OF THE PAST: The original classroom is still used by students today.

Picture: Jamie Graham

1830s and now portrays an older-style classroom including ink wells, a cane and other memorabilia.

When current principal Mrs Palmer started in 2004, there were 35 students and two classes. Today, due to the growth in the area, there are now 130 students in six classes.

Many of the current students had parents, grandparents and great-grandparents attend the school.

Celebrations will be held on Saturday, September 14, with the official assembly commencing at 10am. Mrs Palmer said the day will be filled with a variety of activities

combining both the old and new aspects of the school.

Open to the community, there will be a full day of events including student performances, displays, stalls and rides. For an invitation or more information please phone the school on 4930 1494.



GOOD EGG: Largs Public's happy, healthy hens do more than just cluck.

Picture: Jackson Dean

Hens teach pupils sustainability

By **EMILY KENT**

STUDENTS at Largs Public School are learning about sustainability through the study of hens.

It started last year when Henny Penny Hatchery brought 16 fertile eggs to the school and set up an incubator to keep the eggs at a constant, warm temperature 24 hours a day.

Over a two-week period the

students turned the eggs and saw them hatch, resulting in black and yellow fluffy chicks, 14 hens and two roosters.

The day after hatching students were able to hold and play with the chickens which were kept in a large glass enclosure with a heating light to keep them warm.

The year 3/4 class were responsible for caring for the chickens, with three people chosen each day to make

sure there were fresh shavings, food and water.

Jack, a year 4 student said: "It is fun to watch the chickens and they are easy to care for."

When the chickens were older the school kept five hens and gave the rest away.

Today the hens live in a mobile coop made by the Morpeth Men's Shed and students sell the eggs to raise money for supplies.

Rachel – Newcastle Permanent



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