As a new school year is upon us, I would like to touch on the career of a great educator and mentor of mine who retired from teaching last year.

Rick Tudor was the former Headmaster at Trinity Grammar and has held many other positions of distinction along the journey. Rick is very old school and certainly conservative but also an educational leader of extraordinary standing in this country.

When I reflect on what sets Rick apart from others, interestingly it is not his academic prowess, or his capacity for innovation, or his ingenious insight into curriculum, but instead his willingness to lead from the ‘bottom’ up. This did not come easily to Rick. Although he certainly always looked the part and was immaculately presented, Rick reminded me somewhat of a 1950’s English school boy with his nervous reverence and his impeccable manners. Rick could speak in front of thousands or discuss a flowering gumnut with a Grade 2 boy with equal reverence. Rick made it his business to know the names of every child in the school and while he may not have always achieved this, I suspect he did have a conversation with all 3,500 odd students who went through the school while he was there.

My enduring memories of Rick are important lessons for me, and I hope in turn for you. In all his time at Trinity, I never saw him walk past a piece of littler he did not pick up and put in the bin. Whenever I met with Rick, the meeting was always about me and he never seemed rushed or put out. He knew the names of my wife and children and his wife Liz (who is equally as impressive a leader), even knew the names of my dogs!

But perhaps my enduring memory of Rick was in his first year as Headmaster when he had just returned from long service leave. It was the depths of winter, pouring rain, freezing cold and I was coaching the 8B football team on the most isolated football ground in the school. There was not a parent to be seen. I was time keeper, goal umpire, coach and water boy all in one. We were winning of course (7 premierships in 10 years!), but even I was hoping for the bell, when in the distance a figure came walking towards me. As he got closer, I could see it was Rick he was carrying a cup of coffee. ‘Morning Jon’, he laughed. And then in a gesture I will never forget, he gave me the cup of coffee. ‘I thought you could do with this.’
From the Head of School

Looking forward to a positive 2014!
This year we will be working hard to build on and maintain the positive culture that has emerged at the Jon Carnegie School. For a long time, we have been recognised as an educational alternative for at risk kids.

It is our aim to provide for students who do not fit into mainstream. However this is only part of what we aim to do. We are continually building a culture that not only provides a safe and supportive environment. But one that pushes our students in a way that mainstream cannot. We hold our students accountable for their own dreams, goals and aspirations. Then we build from there.

The last few years have been a journey as we find a place in a society that has at many times marginalised us and labelled us ‘misfits’. Now we have found a way to deliver national curriculum, meet protocol and provide an engaging and challenging real life learning environment. We have found that not only do we provide a haven for kids who don’t fit into mainstream; we are providing somewhere they can really make something of themselves.

The more people I talk to the more I hear that what we are doing is needed and is valued. A number of my friends are young mothers who are concerned about the education system and its ability to provide for children that do not fit the mould and are labelled ‘difficult’. They are concerned that it becomes much easier to let these kids ‘slip through the cracks’ and out of schooling than it is to work to keep them engaged in any formal, let alone, meaningful education.

We hear the concerns of these young mothers. And we share them. Our school not only provides a place for these kids. But is sends the message in education: we can do better by the kids, their parents and the wider community.

We look forward to continuing this journey with you.

Surf Camp

Surf camp is an important introduction to the term and a favourite amongst the students (and staff!). It is a chance for us to come together as a group after the long break, learn some new skills and focus ourselves on a successful year ahead. The camp will run in the second week of Term 1. Students and parents should have received information regarding the trip, what to bring and payment. Please contact Hannah if you have any further questions.
Birthdays

Happy Birthday to our January babies. Our youngest student Josef, our oldest student Liam and our newest staff member Greg all celebrating 2014 before the school year has even begun!

DECV

The DECV term commences on the 3rd of February.

It has been pleasing to hear that many of our students have already read their English texts for the first semester. If you have not, please contact Kate. Students should have completed week 1 of their DECV work. This has been emailed to you. Please do not hesitate to contact Kate if you need assistance with this.

Student wellbeing meetings

Student well-being meetings will run in the first half of Term 1. This is an important part of ILP’s, ongoing counselling and personal development. It is a chance for families to meet and identify together strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement. Hannah will be in contact to arrange appointments.
Parent Information Evening

Parent information evening will be held on Thursday the 6th of February. It will run from 7:30pm until 8:30 pm.

This is for parents of current and prospective parents. Each year the school builds on its positive culture. We encourage parents to be a part of this process and request everyone’s attendance at this event.

Important Dates

Term 1

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<td>Tuesday 4th February</td>
<td>Term 1 Commences</td>
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<td>Thursday 6th February</td>
<td>Parent Information Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 11th Feb - Fri 14th Feb</td>
<td>Surf Camp (TBC)</td>
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<td>Monday 10th March</td>
<td>Labour Day</td>
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<td>Tues 1st April - Thurs 3rd April</td>
<td>Valley Camp</td>
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<td>Thursday 3rd April</td>
<td>Term 1 Concludes</td>
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this summer break your teachers have been to the top of Tasmania and back... what did you get up to?