

# Transition to high school

Much fuss is made around the first year of school as children begin their journey into formal education, but often for our kids the change from primary to secondary school is just as challenging and is often not as well supported.

When you as the parent and your child start school, there are often many events and weeks and weeks of transition programs, morning teas for parents and tours of the schools.

Often for high school a one day experience is all that is offered. In larger high schools the cohort is broken up into smaller ones for the orientation days, feeder primary schools may attend on different days to each other.

As parents, this transition period is often where our participation waivers at schools. It seems harder sometimes to find the time, maybe because the structure is different and our children want more independence from us.

This transition time is important and vital for our kids to help them maintain the engagement with school. My daughter Sarah-Kate (SK8) is one of those kids this year, having just completed seven years at her local school, she is off to the big unknown of high school; changing classes for each lesson, and teachers, having to make new friends and getting to know kids from different primary schools.

It is time too for me as her mum to meet new parents and teachers outside of the safe environment of one teacher per year, and the mums I have known since playgroup.

During the holidays we will be off to buy the required books and stationery, the new shiny black shoes and school skirt.

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SK8 went to her experience day very nervously which surprised me a little, she clung to my arm and wasn't sure about mixing with the other children, she only knew a handful of them. It showed me that even when you think your children are all ready for the great big world of high school, sometimes the leap can be scary.

The school she is going to isn't totally foreign to us, she has had two older sisters attend, which may or may not make it easier for her. Her sister that has just done her HSC has offered her some great advice about getting involved, and which teachers give what homework etc. The sister who is still there has warned her not to talk to her on the bus, nor at school. But her sister's friends were all friendly to her on experience day, showed her around and commented on how much she looks like her sister.

I am sure that SK8 will have days where she misses the comfort of her small primary school class and the safety of classmates she has had since preschool. I know she is a resilient child who will work to make friends and participate in her school to ensure that she enjoys her time there. She has made a list, with her sisters help, of all the things she would like to do at high school, including: SRC, Swimming carnivals, regional dance camp, drumming in a band and maybe getting an opportunity through one of those things to go to perform at school spectacular.

This is the next step to becoming a well-rounded and engaged member of society. The step from child to adult happens while they are at high school. I wish her and all her 2018 cohort all the best in high school. To the parents I say, sit back and enjoy the roller coaster as all too soon 2018 will come around and we will be wishing them luck as they leave high school.

**Rachel Sowden**

## URALLA PUBLIC SCHOOL 150 Years of Education

Uralla Central School celebrated 150 years of public education on the 9th and 10th of November 2012.

Celebrations kicked off on Friday with a formal assembly and the unveiling of the Sesquicentenary Granite book written by local historian Graham Wilson. A time capsule was buried by our youngest student Jaylen Jerrard and oldest student Chris Jones. The Commemorative Pavers were also unveiled by our 2013 captains and Sesquicentenary chair, P&C president and School Administrative Support Staff member Julie Myhill.

Students enjoyed the day moving from decade to decade experiencing snippets of what school life was like over the past 15 decades.

On Saturday we celebrated with a Family Fun Day including markets, food, show bags, face painting and performances and ended the festivities with a Sesquicentenary Dinner that was catered for by our fantastic hospitality teacher Jodie Taylor and our very capable hospitality students. The school hall was full with over 120 dinner guest, some travelled from Melbourne just for the event!

The P&C celebrated this milestone by gifting all current students and staff a commemorative medallion with the school crest one side and the Sesquicentenary logo on the other.

Uralla Central School is proud of their heritage and the education opportunities that have been provided to all of the students that have attended the school in the last 150 years. It is a great

achievement to share such a celebration with so many students and staff members both past and present. Thank you for helping to make Uralla Central School great!

1 of the attached pics is all current students and staff, taken in May when school photos were done.

The other is all of the past staff that attended the Sesquicentenary dinner.

**Julie Myhill**

### Uralla Central School - 2012



Celebrating 150 years



# High School Just Ahead