

2007 National Excellence In Teaching Awards

State and Territory Teaching Excellence Award Recipient



John Dyball

Diploma of Teaching
Shoalhaven High School, Nowra East, New South Wales
Nominated by: School Parent Association

Position: Mathematics Teacher • Level taught: Secondary School • School type: Government • Town: Nowra East • Category: Secondary • State: NSW

More than 25 years of dedicated services to youngsters

For more than 23 years, John Dyball has taken a personal interest in each of his pupils at Shoalhaven High. He wrote the submission for the Federal Government's *Success for Boys* program gaining funding that has allowed the school to encourage and monitor its students who were most at risk of not taking full advantage of their educational opportunities.

John is a dynamic mathematics teacher who breathes life into his chosen subject and invigorates and enthuses his pupils. He makes regular home visits to students' families to more fully involve them in their children's education. In his own time, John coaches football and organises excursions, such as the one to Jamberoo Recreational Park, which has attracted over 500 students annually for the past 20 years. He runs the Student Representative Council and coordinates the school's Anzac Day and Awards Day ceremonies.

John's individual attention to each child's needs has resulted in Koori students from disadvantaged backgrounds being awarded rugby and academic scholarships to enhance their future opportunities and benefit their community in the future. He has built great rapport with his past and present students and says that after 28 years of teaching, including 23 at the same school, teaching is now "really getting exciting!"

Insight

Q: *What makes a good teacher?*

A: The capacity to engage students, stimulate them to enjoy learning and offer a sensible, vibrant, diverse and modern education.

Q: *How do you maintain your enthusiasm for teaching?*

A: Try to 'make a difference' every day. It's an ego trip - the children are engaged and excited and parents are enthusiastic. Smiles and the appreciation make it all worthwhile.

Q: *In hindsight, what do you wish your training provided you with more of?*

A: Coaching accreditation for a variety of sports for non-PE teachers should be mandatory.

Q: *What is the most difficult aspect of teaching today?*

A: Having enough time to prepare modern, effective and exciting lessons while arranging coaching and playing sports, coordinating parents, and the usual school organisation.

Q: *What is your greatest challenge as a teacher?*

A: Ensuring I focus on the 'quiet achiever', remember to reward students, allow students to engage in their own way, and being aware of every individual's needs.

Q: *How has teaching changed over the years?*

A: Advancing technologies make teaching more exciting. I have become the learner. Students' capacity with technology seems limitless and teachers are learning more, engaging more, and thinking more, because of this.

Q: *What is the single most important thing you, as a teacher, can do to connect with individual students?*

A: Show the children I care about them as a special person first and a student second.

Q: *If you were the Minister of Education, Science and Training for a week, what would you try to change?*

A: I would make the first three days of term for professional development with staff, students and parents - planning the term, curriculum, determining expectations, methods of engaging, 'real education', school and work, life skills etc.

Q: *What keeps you awake at night?*

A: New ways to engage students, boys' education and rugby coaching.

Q: *If your students could describe you in three words, what would they say?*

A: Exciting, understanding and different.

Contact Details:

Principal: John Sweet
Phone: (02) 4421 8022

Teacher: John Dyball
Phone: 0418 222 798
Email: jdyball@gmail.com

For further information, please contact:

Janet Thomas, Public Relations, ASG on behalf of the NEiTA Foundation.
Telephone: (03) 9276 7758 Mobile: 0402 837 758 Email: publicrelations@asg.com.au

The NEiTA Foundation is administered by the Australian Scholarships Group Friendly Society Limited
ABN 21 087 648 879 Head Office: 23-35 Hanover Street Oakleigh Victoria 3166
Telephone: (03) 9276 7777 Facsimile: (03) 9563 2780 Website: www.asg.com.au or www.neita.com

Proudly supported by



Australian
Scholarships
Group

SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S EDUCATION