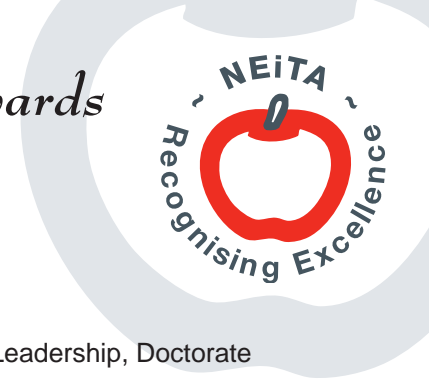


# NEiTA 2009 ASG Inspirational Teaching Awards

## State and Territory Award Recipient



## Tony Roberts

Diploma of Teaching, Bachelor of Education, Master of School Leadership, Doctorate in Education (current)

**Mallacoota P-12 College**, Mallacoota, Victoria

Nominated by: School Council

*Position: Principal • Category: Secondary • Years teaching: 5 years • Years at this school: 1.25 years • School type: Government • Town/Suburb: Mallacoota • State: Victoria • Postcode: 3892*

### Why teaching?

I was in my final year of high school when my English teacher asked me if I had considered a career in teaching - which I hadn't. No member of my family had lasted at school past year 9. This teacher helped me a lot that year with applications and interviews. He is now a professor at Sydney University and we are still in touch. I am very proud of that part of my life.

I wake up every morning looking forward to my day because I simply love my job working with staff, students and parents to create an outstanding learning environment in Mallacoota. I often think of the extra time and effort my English teacher put into me and the positive effect that it has had on all aspects of my life and I try to do the same for the students within my care.

### Revitalising students' interest in learning

As principal of Mallacoota P-12 College, Tony Roberts realises the difference empowerment can make to both teachers and students. Students who feel they are in control of their own education will be successful learners. Similarly, educators who are in charge of the learning process make the best teachers. Tony has applied his educating techniques to his work with very positive outcomes.

The two crucial elements in Tony's teaching methods are empowerment and targeted goal setting. He uses these techniques to revitalise and reinvigorate disengaged students. Following a referral from a teacher, Tony meets with the student and teacher. A second meeting between Tony, the student and the student's family then occurs in an attempt to establish the factors that have led to the child's disengagement. Tony then develops a set of targeted and sequential goals to bring about the desired outcomes. This method allows the student to regain control of his or her learning, and offers clear guidelines for teachers and families as to what they need to do to support the pupil.

Student retention rates have risen markedly since the introduction of Tony's programs, and no student has dropped out of school in 2009. The teachers are also appreciating the improved learning environment with significant gains in morale, engagement and outcomes reported in a recent staff opinion survey. The school's recent review commented that the school had one of the best school cultures, in terms of student-to-student and staff-to-student relationships, of any school in the state.

Tony is a dedicated teacher and a lifelong learner. He has attained his Master of School Leadership degree and is currently completing a PhD in Education.

#### Contact details:

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