Nepean College of Advanced Education

Kingswood campus opens

Official opening, June 26, 1972
by the
Governor of NSW
Sir Roden Cutler

From the Chairmen:
Mr. R. A. Mortgage
FTCS, FIMA

Nepean College of Advanced Education is governed by a council of 25 members, made up of appointees determined by the Minister for Education, official appointees and elected appointees. Its charge, quite simply, is the good government of the college to the achievement of the college's purposes as a major community resource. It has been necessary for the council over the last few years to develop broad policies and from these to set up immediate objectives and to approve through the work of its boards and committees, the necessary machineries to execute its purposes. It can be seen therefore that members of council are not largely symbolic, but that they are integral to a complex government-funded institution.

The present council stands at the head of a process of development which began in 1972 as a planning committee for the college. This committee, meeting in borrowed rooms, was composed of official or government services members and community members representing the nucleus of the final shape of the college. From the beginning the planning committee and council have been called upon to make decisions which have required the deployment of large sums of money in the acquisition of property, the assembly of a teaching force, the provision of equipment and the establishment of contact with the community from whom its future students would be drawn.

The opening of the Kingswood Division and the development and refurbishing of the Westmead Division are achievements in which all members of Council, staff and students, past and present, have good cause to take pride, a feeling reinforced by the considerable excitement of the challenge of a highly significant and worthwhile project of great importance in human terms.

The Kingswood Campus represents the first plateau, the springboard from which Council hopes and plans to move on to ever closer and helpful contributions through the provision of tertiary education in a variety of forms for the betterment of life in the western metropolitan area.

From the Principal:
Dr. J. H. E. Fialk
EM, BA, Med, PhD, DPArt

It is already known in the area as 'the big college' and big it will be, even though in 1977 the students enrolled in both divisions of Kingswood and Westmead have not yet reached the first thousand.

To fly over the broad corridor of the western metropolitan area is to observe the steady westward march of the centre of Sydney's urban population and to realise that this march takes that centre even further from the spires, towers and grounds of the traditional tertiary institutions located in the inner city area.

The journey from Penrith, Blacktown, Parramatta, the Blue Mountains by road and rail to Sydney now become important arteries, shorter in length, leading to Nepean.

Nepean is a big college. Although it is less than three years old, as a multi-purpose self-governing college with its own Council, drawn chiefly from leading citizens of the area, it has shown from the beginning a restless energy to explore all ways and means for the development of an effective educational leadership.

Existing programmes in Teacher Education offer courses for Primary Teachers, Home Science teachers and teachers in the all-important field of education of handicapped children.

The School of Business, after a short and forceful campaign, now offers Nepean's first degree with a major emphasis in Accounting, together with diploma courses in Secretarial Studies and Business.

Forecasts by the State Minister for Education, Mr. Bedford, indicate a real possibility that Nepean will offer programmes in basic Nurse Education.

Other programs are in course of design for approval and presentation to the area. They include courses for Counsellors, courses in the Visual and Performing Arts, new courses in Business and Teacher Education, and a whole array of informal programmes not leading to awards but directed to the community interest.

It is the wish of the Nepean College to meet the challenge to provide progressively a range of courses at a tertiary level, both formal and informal, directed towards the strengthening, deepening advancement of the best elements of community life and aspiration.

Peponi District Star, Wednesday, June 22, 1977
Nepean College: A Community Education Centre

The college had its genesis early in 1972 when a working party was set up to plan the initial development of the proposed college. This group was replaced in November 1972 with the Planning Committee of Kingswood College of Advanced Education appointed by the then Minister for Education, the Hon. E. A. Willis.

The Planning Committee was under the chairmanship of the late L. J. Allen, Executive Member of the Advanced Education Board, whose memory has been commended in the naming of the Kingswood Teaching Resource Centre on the Penrith College of Advanced Education. The other members were B. S. Lamrock, a leading citizen of Liverpool, the then Clerks of Penrith City Council, and Mr. R. J. Galloway, principal of the Penrith firm of accountants.

It was decided that the proposed college would have campuses at Westmead (incorporating the Westmead Teachers College and at Kingswood, and plans for this latter site were drawn up, as were additional teaching areas, including a student amenities site.

The Committee commenced the task of appointing a Principal and a Secretary and the rental of office accommodation to house administrative staff pending the completion of the first Kingswood building.

On July 1, 1973, the new multi-discipline college of advanced education was opened known as Kingswood College of Advanced Education. The former Head Teacher of the Teachers College of New South Wales, Mr. W. T. J. Fielding, was appointed principal of the college. As was the case with most of the early staff, the College's first principal had previously been Head Teacher of a Provincial Teachers College.

In January 1974, the Principal, Dr. J. N. H. Sadler, was appointed as the first Provost of the College. This appointment marked the beginning of a new era in education for the Western area.

The second semester in 1974, saw the college commence its first two-year Diploma in Special Education for qualified applicants to train as teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing.

By the beginning of 1975, the principal of the proposed college would be changed to Nepean College of Advanced Education. The former University of Sydney’s Dean of Education, Mr. W. V. Jennings, was let to T. C. Warberle, to advise him regarding the college was established in Nepean, which was to be established as a three-year Diploma.

A tender for the building of the Kingswood site was let to T. C. WHite, to st approximately $4.3 million. Early in 1976, there were 2.3-storey building costing approximately $500,000 on the Westmead campus was occupied and assisted in housing the college's 400 students.

The building in Kingswood had been completed in February 1975 and the new Dorms College. The former Dorms College of Advanced Education was completed.

Mr. J. T. Walker, was appointed and the college commenced teaching in business courses in 1976 with two-year full-time Diploma courses in Business and Secretarial Studies. Also, part-time courses in the Associate Diploma in Business were conducted.

In 1976, in conjunction with Hawkesbury Agricultural College, Nepean commenced a three-year Diploma in Teaching in secondary home economics.

During 1976, the course was conducted at Hawkesbury College by the staff of both colleges. In 1977, students attended lectures at both Hawkesbury and the new Nepean site at Kingswood.

In the opening of the Kingswood Campus of the Nepean College of Advanced Education represents an important milestone in the development of not only the City of Penrith but also of the Western area generally.

Towards the end of 1974, the Dean of the School of Business, Mr. J. T. Walker, was appointed and the college commenced teaching in business courses in 1976 with two-year full-time Diploma courses in Business and Secretarial Studies. Also, part-time courses in the Associate Diploma in Business were conducted.

In 1976, in conjunction with Hawkesbury Agricultural College, Nepean commenced a three-year Diploma in Teaching in secondary home economics.

During 1976, the course was conducted at Hawkesbury College by the staff of both colleges. In 1977, students attended lectures at both Hawkesbury and the new Nepean site at Kingswood.

In the opening of the Kingswood Campus of the Nepean College of Advanced Education represents an important milestone in the development of not only the City of Penrith but also of the Western area generally.

One of the most important responsibilities of Government is to ensure that citizens have every opportunity for the best education.

It is a fact that I am delighted to welcome the Kingswood-Penrith Division of the Nepean College of Advanced Education to its new premises.

The diplomas teaching course being offered is a most important one in view of the high priorities which the Government places on education.

Already there are 250 students enrolled in this course and the night time course for the school of business plus the one for training in the course will be offered in conjunction with Hawkesbury Agricultural College.

I understand that further concentrations of the business course will result in being offered in a daytime course as enrollment increases.

The building itself, constructed on three levels at a cost of $7.5 million, is most attractive and blends well with the site.

I welcome the new college at Kingswood as a great adjunct to existing educational services on the Penrith electorate and I look forward to its continued growth both in numbers and status.

R. J. MULOCK
Minister of Justice and
Minister for Housing

On behalf of Penrith City Council, I would like to wish the College every success in the years to come.

Eileen Cunliffe
MAYOR

Penrith District Star, Wednesday, June 22, 1977
The council of the Nepean College

Mr R. Briff – Principal, Demonstration School.
Mr G. Brown – Electrician, Electrical Engineering.
Mr M. Collings – elected academic staff member.
Mr C. Field – elected academic staff member.
Dr J. Fell – official member of high school.
Mr J. Francis – Commonwealth Employment Officer.
Mr R. Green – Partner in leading firm of Accountants – Deputy Director of Council.
Mr R. Hingston – Chairman of Council.
Mr G. Hope – elected student member.
Mr D. Brown – Principal, Teachers College.
Mr C. Kerrigan – Solicitor.
Dr K. Kennett – Dean, Teacher Education – official member.
Mr J. Mullowney – Principal of high school.
Mr W. Murray – Pharmacist.
Mr I. Scott – Regional Director of Education.
Mr M. Blight – non-academic staff member.
Dr J. Sutton – Senior public sector – Director of Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.
Dr G. Swain – Principal of Hawkesbury Agricultural College.
Prof. H. Thomas – Professor, Graduate School of Management.
Mr D. Trist – Bank Manager.
Mr J. T. Walker – Dean of School of Business – official member.
Fr. J. Walsh – Master of Studies – St. Columba’s College.
Miss F. Whittam – former Principal of independent school.

Education for the future
Teacher education provides the basis upon which a meaningful, vital Australian society depends.

As the graduates of the School of Teacher Education move into communities and schools, they are an integral part of that life – behavioural models for children, mentors, helpers, friends to all who enter interested resource persons.

But above all they are human beings, struggling as we do, with the demands and challenges of making our society a better place to work and live.

The task of teacher education is great – whilst all professions need preparation in “skills of the trade” and in certain general areas of knowledge, the teacher education student requires these as an end-point but as the beginning of their challenge.

But then, what competent practitioners skilled in the art of teaching, specialising in areas of knowledge or generally prepared for all kinds of diverse demands.

Even this is still a greater professional demand than most professions expect. But the greatest demand is the one to inspire and to understand the greatest asset of our country – our children and youth.

Teacher education is a program of professional development in which individuals are expected not to learn information and experience through their own understanding to provide education, but to LIVE EDUCATION for education is LIFE.

The Council of the Nepean College

The School of Business serves the community.