

## **Keebra Park State High School, Southport, Queensland, Australia.**

Interview with Mr Peter Craig, Registrar and RFL Coordinator.

And also the Principal, Mrs Frances Jones

700 students of whom about 280 boys are on the sports specialist programme.

Rugby League is taken as a school-based approved subject so reports are written, assessments are done both formative and summative to yield report marks.

The year 8 and 9 students replace their normal HPE periods with RFL

Years 10,11,and 12 have RFL as one of their option choices. Those senior students who show outstanding talent are placed on a contract with the Wests Tigers, Sydney. Parents are fully involved in this decision and students have to realise that their contract will be terminated if work standards and school behaviour deteriorates.

The 15 yr olds and the 16 to 18 yr olds have training before and after school... This may be practical or theory work.

The Brisbane Broncos run the RFL competition between schools but Keebra Park High School is affiliated to the Wests Tigers from Sydney. The Tigers provide coaching clinics as well as substantial funding of the project. The Tigers' Coaches coach the school coaches. The affiliation ensures the school gets 'cutting edge' technology and coaching advice.

External students get most of their homestay fees covered by the Wests Tigers as well as playing gear and training. It was estimated that the Tigers contribution was around \$80 000 to \$90 000 per student per year.

The teaching programme within school time is all taken by RFL qualified teachers. When they have to be on duty from 8am, they get time off in lieu.

The girls at the school follow a specialist Touch Rugby course and some are involved in Triathlon.. These are again alternative HPE options for these students.

Students graduating from the school RFL programme move into lucrative contracts with the Tigers but they have to cope with moving from a small community into the large city environment at a relatively young age and regrettably some of them find this too difficult to manage.

## **Kelvin Grove State High School, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia**

This school is classed as a school of excellence in Dance, Tennis, Golf, Music, Soccer.

For the last 15 years Dance has been given the greatest degree of attention with students spending every morning with Queensland Ballet and afternoons taking two

periods to complete their curriculum requirements. They start each day at 8am and finish at 5pm. Currently 34 yr 11's and 20 yr 12's are involved in the dance programme. Usually they would aim for about 20 at each level.

Because they have only two periods they are limited in the range of other subjects they can take at the school but they may fill out their course with distance learning programmes. They try to include English Maths and a Science, along with art and dance.

Students apply for admission to the programme but must undergo an audition before acceptance. The programme attracts students from other states as well as overseas. Board is arranged privately for these students.

Teachers opt in to the programme because they are required to work until 5pm daily then they are permitted to start late in the mornings as a quid pro quo.

Students emerge from the course with qualifications in dance and performance which gains them immediate employment in the field. Some have joined international dance troupes or perform in reviews on cruise ships.

The tennis, golf, soccer and music academies operate during normal school time... in HPE and music periods. The HPE periods however focus on the particular chosen sport emphasising theory related to the sport plus before school and after school practical lessons to develop skills. Practical lessons involve the use of professional coaches partly paid for by the school.

Students fees cover the remainder of the costs.

These latter specialities are offered as foundation programmes from year 8... they do 5 subjects plus the excellence programme, 4 periods per day (3 by 70min per subject) then 5<sup>th</sup> period after school.

They also offer an Aviation specialty which is very expensive ... leads to private pilot's licence. These students work with the Archey Airfield pilot training courses on Wednesday afternoons as well as their excellence periods during the school day.