



Times gone by: Former primary school students during class time at Telopea Park School. The school is celebrating its 90th birthday this year. PHOTO: National Archives of Australia

Double milestone for Telopea Park

Celebrating 90 years and 30 years as a French-Australian school

THIS year marks two important milestones in Telopea Park School's history.

Firstly, it is 90 years since the school was first established, opening its doors to 58 debut pupils.

Secondly, the school is celebrating 30 years since its establishment as a French-Australian school, based on an agreement between the French and Australian federal governments.

Today, the school community celebrates the diversity, unity and success that signify the school's development since its official opening in 1923.

The agreement between the Australian and French governments to establish a French-Australian school in Canberra encompassed five key objectives – aims that underpin the life of the school today.

These are:

- to provide bilingual education in the English and French languages from the kindergarten to year 10 level for students aged from five years to at least the end of compulsory schooling
- to promote progressive bilingualism in its educational program and to enhance access by students to quality bilingual education
- to foster respect for other



Then and now: Telopea Park School in the 1930s and the front building today.



cultures

- to provide a normal Australian education at secondary level, as a neighbourhood school
- to contribute to French-Australian educational and cultural relations and in

particular to support the achievement of the aims of the cultural agreement

Commemorative dates for the school

There will be a range of celebratory events this year to mark Telopea Park's 90th and

30th anniversaries.

■ July 4: The 30th anniversary of the signing of the agreement between France and Australia

■ September 11: The 90th birthday of Telopea Park School as a site of government schooling in the ACT.

Telopea Park School, Lycée Franco-Australien de Canberra, is located at New South Wales Crescent, Barton.

■ For more information, phone 6205 5599, email tps@telopea.act.edu.au or visit www.telopea.act.edu.au

A telling tale of growth and unity

WITH a long, interesting history to share, Telopea Park School delivers an education like no other in Canberra, if not Australia.

Officially opened on September 11, 1923, the school was named after Telopea Park, the area in which it is situated. Supported by just two teachers, one headmaster and one assistant, Telopea Park School opened its doors to 58 pupils a few weeks later. By the end of the school year, enrolments had grown to 120. Over the decades since it has had several roles through which it has built traditions, many of which are in place today. Telopea Park School holds many memories for past students and teachers alike.

In 1973, with interest from the Canberra community, a French bilingual program was established. Ten years later, after an agreement between the Australian and French governments, Telopea Park School was officially established as a bi-national French-Australian school. By 2006, Telopea Park School was recognised as an International Baccalaureate World School for its Middle Years Programme. In 2012, Telopea Park School / Lycée franco-australien de Canberra became a member of the AEF (French Education Abroad) network.

Deputy Principal Kate Sutherland said despite the several different educational paths open



Leadership: Deputy principal (secondary) Tom Kobal, deputy principal (primary) Kate Sutherland, principal Kerrie Blain, proviseur and head of French studies Emmanuel Texier and conseillère pédagogique (pedagogical councillor) Muryel Martin.

to students, Telopea Park School was a well-integrated and unified school rather than two or three separate schools.

"Since the signing of the agreement between France and Australia thirty years ago the French-Australian school has evolved from being two parallel streams to one that is extremely integrated on many levels, from the curriculum, pedagogy and student engagement to the administration systems and the

leadership of the school," she said.

"When the primary school children enter kindergarten and they learn in both French and English – it is fully bilingual. The children have bilingual lessons where the French and the Australian work together in the classroom. In years 5 to 6 students have bilingual projects where they may be in separate classrooms but working in both languages."

From years seven to ten, students can enter one of two streams, she said.

"There's the English-French Stream and the English Stream, which is the neighbourhood high school," she said.

"The English-French Stream is still bilingual. For all secondary students the study of a foreign language is compulsory. There are actually several languages taught in the high school besides French – Italian,

Spanish, Japanese and Indonesian."

Sutherland said the success of the school reflected the hard work of many people across its 90-year history.

"It symbolises the amount of effort by several Australian principals and four proviseurs (head of French studies) and earlier French assistant principals who have collectively made the school what it is now," she said.

"It's also the goodwill of the governments involved. Everything is structured and planned around the necessity to work and teach together."

Proviseur and head of French studies Emmanuel Texier said the agreement between the two nations is rare yet exceptional.

"This is a project with a mix of two cultures to create the best of our two cultures," he said.

"The school is administered by the ACT Education and Training Directorate and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and represents a strong link between our two countries."

"Learning French also means learning a language which is spoken in many neighbouring countries within the Pacific. Moreover, the economic links between Australia and all francophone countries are growing rapidly. Therefore, being a student at Telopea Park School in the French stream means being a global citizen in touch with the world's future."

An exciting year for a very special partnership

IN an extra exciting year, Telopea Park School is celebrating major anniversaries during the same year Alliance Française de Canberra celebrates its 70th birthday.

Alliance Française de Canberra is one of the school's major partners, assisting the school fulfil its mission.

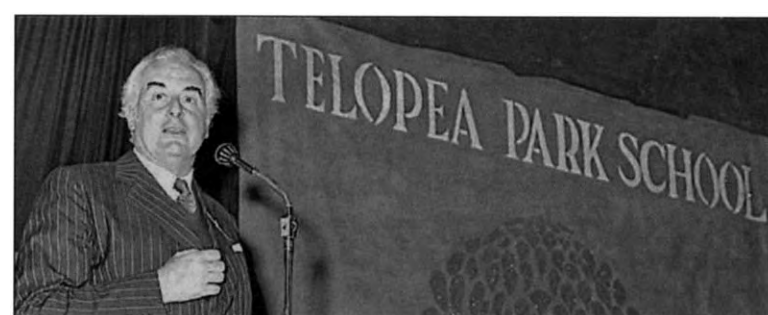
For this reason, Telopea Park School is happy to contribute to its celebrations at Albert Hall on Saturday, April 6.

Celebrating these milestones on Canberra's centenary, the event is even more special.

■ For more information, phone 6205 5599



Celebration: Telopea Park School and Alliance Française de Canberra are celebrating anniversaries.



Alumni: Former Australian Prime Minister Gough Whitlam.

Beginning of a journey

FROM former prime ministers to famous ballet dancers, Telopea Park School has been home to a number of successful and well-known Australians over the years.

Arguably the school's best-known former student, former Australian Labor Prime Minister Edward Gough Whitlam studied at the school from the late 1920s.

Whitlam was elected Australia's

21st prime minister on December 5, 1972, leading the government for three years.

Another renowned Australian among the school's alumni, Ross Stretton (1952-2005) performed with the Australian Ballet, the Joffrey Ballet and the American Ballet Theatre and was artistic director of the Australian Ballet from 1997 to 2001, followed by the Royal Ballet from 2001 to 2002.

Special trip down memory lane

AS part of 90th birthday celebrations, Telopea Park School will be hosting an afternoon tea for students enrolled on or before December, 1938.

Past students can register via

mail at "90th Birthday", Telopea Park School, Lycée Franco-Australien de Canberra, NSW Crescent, Barton, ACT, 2600

■ For more information, phone 6205 5599



Alliance Française de Canberra
for 70 years a centre
for French language and culture
in Canberra
Congratulates
Telopea Park School on
90 years
and
the Lycée Franco/Australien on
30 years
in Canberra

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Rememberance: The war memorial outside Telopea Park School.

A school steeped in history

Telopea Park School has a rich history, somewhat reflected among the nostalgic school buildings and grounds.

Students continue to learn in the same classrooms and gather across the same tree-lined oval as their predecessors, while historic information and photos in the school's hallways ensure the years gone by are not forgotten.

There are several sites dotted throughout Telopea Park School with a special story of their own.

The school war memorial
Facing Parliament House

from outside the school's front entrance stands Telopea Park School's war memorial. Unveiled in 1953, the memorial commemorates the services of former students who served in World War II.

The school historic painting

The Telopea Park School painting spreads across a large canvas, encompassing a whole wall of the school. Painted by Latvian father and son artists Verners and Gurt Linde, the oil painting depicts migration and migrant contributions to the country. The artwork was created for the first Australian

Citizenship Convention in 1950, before being moved to its present location not long after.

The school archives

Encompassing materials relevant to the school's buildings, students, staff and the wider school community, Telopea Park School's archives are home to a plethora of historical documents, photographs and memorabilia.

Access to the collection through the school archivist is by appointment, however access to individual school records is limited by privacy legislation.

The world at his feet

FOR bilingual year 12 student James Russell, completing primary and secondary school at Telopea Park School has opened up a world of opportunity.

"The best thing about being in the French-English system is that the world kind of becomes your oyster because you are very well regarded in universities in Australia," he said.

"Not only that, you can also apply to universities in France. They view overseas students from places like this with high regard as well. The possibilities that you get from continuing through the French stream right to the very end are enormous as far as how well you're considered for positions in tertiary studies."

The 17 year old has applied to study engineering in Paris but will consider completing an engineering or economics degree in Canberra.

He said excellent teachers and a well-rounded curriculum were among the benefits of completing a bilingual education.

"The teachers that I've had all the way through the French system have been absolutely committed to letting us bring out the best in ourselves," he said.

"The teachers that arrive here are always of a very high calibre and always motivating the kids and going above and beyond the call of duty. It's just been a blessing to have that kind of commitment from a teacher."

"Another big positive is also the emergence in another culture. Many of my friends are French and come from different backgrounds – not only France. There's a huge diversity of students in the French stream."

As a result of the school's holistic nature, James said he often felt like he was studying in France.

"You eat the French food with your friends, you spend your whole day speaking French," he said.

"That kind of level of immersion for someone my age is unique. It's very special."

Reflecting on the bicultural character of his studies, James said learning both English and French from a young age allowed him to pick up the latter much easier.

"It's a lot easier to pick up another language when you're young," he said.

And having the opportunity to live and study overseas increased his French literacy skills, he said.

"In 2005 I spent about eight months in France. I was living in France and went to a French school and that certainly improved my French skills and allowed me to continue and that was great," he said.

"The school itself offers a lot of programs for the French students to really immerse themselves in the French culture."

"Every year the primary school organises a trip for students to go to New Caledonia for two weeks and spend time living with a French family. That was really an eye-opener, to spend time in a French culture but also an islander culture."

"Another experience is in year 10, where students go to France as part of a cultural exchange program for five weeks. In both those cases the students from France come back to Australia and spend time with us so, it really is an exchange."

James, who is one of 13 year 12 students who remain in the English-French stream at nearby Narrabundah College,



Opportunity: Year 12 student James Russell lauded the learning environment at Telopea Park School.

said having the choice to continue with bilingual studies during high school resulted in an engaging and enthusiastic learning environment for student and teacher.

"[The students are] there because they want to be there – that's important if you want a good environment for a classroom," he said.

"The teachers always put in heaps of energy outside school time, and have resources on the internet available; they do a lot of work."

"When you have such enthusiasm from the teachers and willingness from the students it really does provide none other than an ideal situation if you really want to excel in what you want to do."

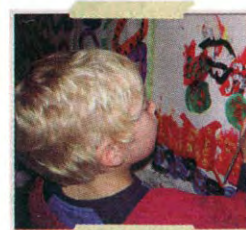


French-Australian Preschool
Ecole-Maternelle Franco-Australienne

Congratulates Telopea Park School on their 90th year, and 30 years as a French-Australian school!

Want to give your preschool-aged child the opportunity to learn the French language and culture through progressive immersion? The French-Australian Preschool offers high quality early childhood education and a caring, supportive environment to **all** Canberra children.

Learn more by attending our Open Day on Saturday 1 June! Or why not call us on 02 6295 0621, email info@frenchaustralianpreschool.com.au or visit our website.



a: Astrolabe Street, Red Hill w: www.frenchaustralianpreschool.com.au