

Past Teacher Spotlight

Troy Ascott (2001-2002)

I was at St George SHS in 2001 and 2002. During that time, I was the Head of Department (Middle Schooling) – I think we now call this area ‘Junior Secondary’ in most schools. I also acted as Deputy Principal for a short time while I was there.

I taught English and Humanities to mostly junior secondary students at that time – I was a bit of a Year 9 specialist!



I have many great memories of St George. One of the best was that we held a “Swim-a-thon” to help East Timor at the time. Literally thousands of laps of the St George Pool were swum and a considerable amount of money was raised. We then hosted some students from East Timor who came out to visit. The principal at the time, Paul Atkinson, was a swimmer and got in behind this event. I remember training for this event in the river (and surviving). This event really brought the school community together!

When I was at St George I was really at a stage of honing my approach to teaching. I loved teaching the St George kids as they were challenging but so rewarding. To teach the students at St George and succeed, you had to be very relational and meet them in their context. While I was there, some students formed their own indigenous dance troupe and they were quite incredible. We had a community evening during which a troupe of visiting Samoan dancers came and performed, with our students performing as well. It was an incredible and truly memorable night.

Now, I am Executive Principal of Coolum State High School.

I wouldn't be here without St George High. St George gave me my first job as a leader within the department and a great principal to learn under, in Paul Atkinson. It was a committed, passionate and community-oriented school with great students. I learnt a lot of things at St George about leadership and they form a foundation that I very much use to this day.

My message to current students and staff is that St George High offers a wonderful, community-based education with relationships that will travel with you for life. The staff are extremely committed. Work hard at school, make the most of every opportunity, form as many friendships and relationships as you can and aim high. You will never forget your time at St George State High School.