



Departure of Prefabs heralds final phase of development project at Whangaparaoa College.

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There were no tears shed at Whangaparaoa College today as a block of five prefabs were removed from the school grounds.



“These prefabs were right at the front and were the first image of the school that the public saw” said Principal Brian O’Connell. “They did not convey a good image and indeed were detrimental to us trying to convey to the community the huge building programme that was underway at the other end of the grounds” he said.

The prefabs were vital in accommodating the students back in 2005 when the new college was formed. “We could not have done without them back then” said Mr O’Connell “but now with the brand new Year 7& 8 year building which opened this year, the prefabs are now superfluous”.



The departure of the prefabs heralds the final phase of the College's ambitious development project. In addition to providing a significant component of new purpose-built learning accommodation, the final phase of work will include new construction to alter the existing school entrance. The new entry arrangement will clearly communicate the vision of "being a lead school in learning" to the wider community and give Whangaparaoa College the presence that it deserves.



Quotes from Teachers

“As a new teacher I was very happy to have a classroom and begin my teaching career. My prefab was my space and I enjoyed creating in it a colourful place for the learner to come. Although I am very happy to be in a 'real' classroom now, I have fond memories of my first 4 terms of teaching in the prefab on the hill.”

- Jan Handley

“We will miss the prefabs, affectionately known as "the gulags" - an appropriate setting for teaching twentieth century history.”

- Olivia Schertenleib

“Those tin roofs had an ability to capture and intensify every sound. Whether it was a hailstorm, the footsteps of seagulls or the pounding of a wayward basketball; there was never a dull moment.

I know the learners in my class were really sad to move out of the prefabs. We all enjoyed being on the hill above the rest of the school. It was a really bright and airy space. So much wonderful learning went on in that room, so there is a definite feeling of nostalgia. But we are also very excited about our new (permanent) classroom.”

- Loren Harrison

“My prefab seemed like the best thing ever as a first-year teacher, despite the leaks, wind-tunnel windows and refrigeration in winter. I enjoyed making it into my own space and will be a little bit sad to see it go!”

- Deborah Mills

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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