

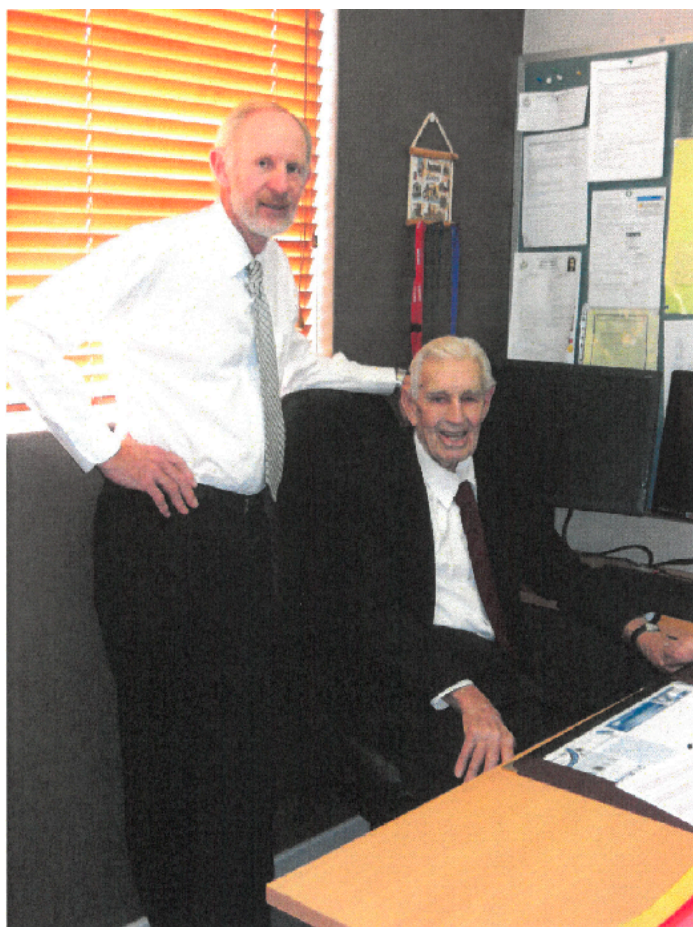
Like Father, Like Son

Fathers and sons do not always see eye to eye but one thing that Boyd and Geoff Anderson agree on is that their years as principals of Rossmoyne Primary School have been the best years of their long teaching careers.

By the end of this year the two generations of Andersons will together have led Rossmoyne Primary for nearly a third of its 50 years, a family connection that would be unusual, if unequalled, in the Western Australian public school system.

Boyd Anderson commenced at Rossmoyne in February 1969, following the footsteps of the foundation principal, Jack Moy and John McArthur. Mr Anderson's early teaching career took him to various country towns, from Ardath to Pingrup and from Merredin to Geraldton and a number of Perth metropolitan primary schools including Brentwood. After four years at Rossmoyne he was succeeded by Roger Kingdon who was also principal for just over four years. Then followed a string of shorter term appointments. In 1985 Mr Daryl Fowler commenced what became the longest term for a Rossmoyne Primary principal - 19 years - until his retirement in 2003 and in 2004 Geoff Anderson commenced what is now the second longest term.

Geoff does not directly attribute his choice of career to his father. Indeed, given that he attended no fewer than four primary schools in one year as the family followed Boyd's moves to his various schools, he could well have rebelled against the very notion of primary school teaching. And after four years of teaching he did just that, resigning from the Education Department and travelling overseas for 12 months. But on his return he rejoined the Department and has been a teacher and principal ever since at a diverse range of primary schools from the Wheatbelt to the Perth suburbs.



Geoff and Boyd Anderson in the Principal's office

'Boyd Anderson towered over the other teachers but he was a very friendly man'. Frank Hill, former student