

Principal for learning centre

Glenormiston rural learning centre has a new head of campus after Derrinallum P-12 principal Michael Castersen was accepted into the role this week.

Alpine School principal Mark Reeves said he was delighted to welcome Mr Castersen on board.

"School council and the Department of Early Childhood Development are very delighted to announce the successful applicant for head of campus at the rural centre Glenormiston," he said.

"Michael has been an active member of the local community and proven as a professional principal."

Mr Castersen said he was thrilled to fill the new role at the new \$3.77 million Glenormiston Alpine School rural learning centre.

"I'm very delighted, as excited as you could possibly be."

He said he first became interested in the Alpine Schools after he ran a similar pilot in 2003.

"The Corangamite network of schools were toying with the idea of a one month pilot - I put my hand up and got the job," he said.

"That's how I got interested in that kind of stuff."

The pilot consisted of 40 children staying on campus full-time.

"It was then I began to realise it was what I wanted to do."

Mr Castersen's first teaching role was in 1986 at Mortlake P-12 College.

"I spent 18 years there, in all sorts of roles," he said.

"I was then an executive officer for the Corangamite network for nine months, where I managed the principals."

Mr Castersen was then a principal at the Braxholme-Wallacedale Community School.

He moved to Derrinallum in 2005 as the P-12 College principal.

Mr Reeves said Mr Castersen had an interest in the new Alpine School.

"He has been a member of the steering board committee and development phase of the school for the past 18 months," he said.

"He also supports the belief and ethos of our schools providing student teams at the schools."

Although Mr Castersen is excited about his new job he



Michael Castersen is looking forward to new challenges. 2008D

said it came with "mixed emotions".

"I love the kids here (Derrinallum P-12), I'm really excited like you wouldn't believe, but I'm going to miss everyone."

He said he hoped he had made an impact on the Derrinallum community.

"I'm sure of one thing - I bought a bit of the community back to school and opened discussions."