

# Wyong Public School: Improving learning outcomes with the Epson Document Camera

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case study



## Wyong Public School

One of the NSW Central Coast's most innovative State Government primary schools, Wyong Public School constantly seeks to trial new technologies that add an extra dimension to the learning environment.

## Challenges

- Eliminate the need for cumbersome overhead projectors
- Create a more engaging and interactive learning and teaching environment

## Solution

Epson ELP-DC06 Document Camera

## Benefits

- Ability to project three-dimensional objects onto the classroom's interactive whiteboard
- Attention of students held longer and more effectively
- Ability to make better use of an on-demand library of digital teaching and learning resources

“Using the camera to engage with the children is a big help in improving learning outcomes. Essentially, it provides me with the ability to vary lessons through the use of resources and thereby hold the attention of the students much longer and more effectively than was previously the case.”

Anne Bailey  
Kindergarten Teacher  
Wyong Public School

Founded in 1888, the New South Wales Central Coast's Wyong Public School is widely recognised as one of the region's most innovative State Government primary schools. Contributing to that innovation is an open minded attitude to trial and implementation of technologies that go well beyond the traditional classroom teaching aids. Among those technologies is the Epson ELP-DC06 Document Camera.

When Wyong Kindergarten teacher Anne Bailey was given an Epson Document Camera to trial in her classroom, the resulting benefits began to emerge almost immediately, particularly when it came to student engagement. “I had seen similar products used quite a bit at University, and saw then how effective they could be in an education environment,” Ann states.

## Streamlining class preparation

For many teachers, the hours spent in a classroom are only part of the day-to-day routine, with a great deal of time devoted to gathering resources and lesson preparation. According to Anne, the Document Camera is a teaching aid that represents significant savings in time and effort while simultaneously enhancing lessons.

“Where it used to be the case of scanning, photocopying or preparing transparencies for the overhead projector,” Anne says, “documents, books and magazine articles can be brought into the classroom in their original form and projected directly onto the interactive whiteboard [IWB].”

That capability is particularly valuable when it comes to story and picture books, which are used extensively in Kindergarten and early primary classes.

## The need for speed and quality

Using the Epson Document Camera, Anne was able to take full advantage of the entire library of story and picture books at her disposal. “With the camera, I was able to project even small pages onto the whiteboard and use them with the entire class,” she says. “And with the pages projected, I'm able to work with students on identifying specific parts of sentences, such as words that begin with a certain letter or verbs and nouns.

“Prior to that, I either had to photocopy and enlarge each page of a book or simply bypass various books because they were too small to be seen by the entire class.”

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Adding even more value has been Anne's use of the Document Camera to help build an expansive library of on-demand teaching and learning resources. Using the ELP-DC06 as a still camera, she took photos of objects, documents and student work samples then saved them to her computer for later use.

### An extra dimension

With student news (show-and-tell) being one of early learning's most effective and enjoyable classroom activities, Anne put the Epson Document Camera's 2D and 3D focusing capabilities to good use.

From photos and documents through to figurines and even insects, items being presented during news were able to be placed under the Document Camera and projected faithfully onto the classroom's interactive whiteboard. Anne explains: "Instead of having to pass items between students or walk around the class to display the item, they were projected onto the whiteboard so everyone could see them at the same time.

"We even had one student bring in some insects for news. I was able to place them under the camera, do a freeze frame and then discuss the different parts of the insect with the class."

It is that three-dimensional focus capability of the Document Camera that enabled Anne to make use of an almost limitless range of items in her class. Sea shells, cicada casings and crystals have all been put under the spotlight, contributing to a classroom environment in which student engagement has reached new high levels.

"Using the camera to engage with the children is a big help in improving learning outcomes," Anne states. "Essentially, it provides me with the ability to vary lessons through the use of resources and thereby hold the attention of the students much longer and more effectively than was previously the case."

### Quick, easy... and safe

Underpinning the versatility and ready use of the Epson Document Camera are its ease of setup and light weight. In less than 20 seconds, Anne is able to remove the camera from its case, connect it via a USB port to her computer and, using a short-throw Epson projector, have images projected on to the classroom's interactive whiteboard.

That means that if something of interest is brought in to the class either by Anne or one her students, it can be shared and made the subject of discussion in less than a minute. And given the dynamic nature of K-6 classes, that ease and speed of setup is crucial.

Of particular note also is that the Document Camera virtually eliminates the OH&S issue surrounding the movement of heavy and cumbersome overhead projectors (OHPs). "Those machines are weighty, bulky and awkward to move around a classroom, even when they're on a trolley," Anne says. "With the Epson Document Camera, though, it's incredibly quick and easy, and anything I was able to do with an OHP, I can do more effectively and easily with the camera.

"Most important, though, is that it provides me with a tool that ensures students have an early learning experience that is enjoyable, positive and effective."

For more information on Epson  
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