

## Rydalmere pupils talk through generations

By Jade Wittmann Oct. 23, 2014, midnight



Sharing history: Steve Clarke, with grandchildren Georgia and Patrick Ryan, was one of the guests at Rydalmere Public School Grandparents' Day. Picture: Natalie Roberts

When Georgia Ryan's grandfather first started a career in information technology a computer was bigger than her classroom and had enough memory for just 16 kilobytes of data, or one-word document.

The Rydalmere Public School year 4 pupil — part of a generation of learners whose computers are an essential learning tool — contributed a story about this to a Grandparents' Day anthology, printed and shared for the occasion with a grant from the Council on the Ageing NSW.

Georgia's grandfather Steve Clarke attended to celebrate

the day with her and grandson Patrick, in year 5.

"School now is totally different of course," he said.

"We didn't have computers, we didn't even have calculators. In the later years of high school we had slide rules that we used to do calculations and we had log tables where we looked up tables in a book to work out mathematical formula."

Mr Clarke started as a trainee computer programmer at Macquarie University a month before it opened for lectures and ended up managing its computing centre for 20 years.

"We had removable disks that were huge, like six LPs

together, and it was brilliant because it held two megabytes of data."

Though Georgia found all of this extremely interesting, she said there were other things she loved about her "pop".

"I love my pop coming to stay at our house," she said.

"He takes me to Parramatta Park to ride our bikes, he shows me science experiments and he teaches me how to build a matrix."

A reading of the stories was followed by morning tea, where pupil Serena Kirk's great-grandmother Maria Martin played piano for the crowd.