



# World Teachers' Day QLD

Friday 28th October 2022  
[worldteachersday.com.au](http://worldteachersday.com.au)

Teaching through every moment

## Making connections through stories

As a Torres Strait Islander woman, Barbara Dewis shares her story and background with students and colleagues to enrich the learning experience.

Barbara has been a Catholic Education teacher since 1988 and has taught both primary and secondary classes in varied subjects such as English, maths, science, geography, history and religion.

"Teaching was a progression from the years I spent as a teacher aide after I finished my schooling," she said.

"I spent nearly 7 years as a teacher aide and it was during this time that I decided to become a teacher.

"The transition from teacher aide to teacher was easy as I had gained an insight into teaching, but studying as an older student still had many challenges, particularly as I was a single mother of one.

"What I love about my job as a teacher are the smiles I see on the faces of the students as well as the diversity of students that make up the classes I have taught in the past.

"On another note, the stories shared by the students are always exciting and interesting."

Ms Dewis delivers interesting and engaging lessons while passing on a variety of life skills to enhance learning.

"I strive to inspire the students by delivering exciting lessons, making lessons fun as well as being honest with them."

Ms Dewis believes teaching is a rewarding career and the best reward is the connection and impact on students' lives.

"For me, the memorable moments have been when I had the opportunity to congratulate students on their achievements whether it be academic or sports," she said.

"A standout moment would be of a student who totally disliked reading. It didn't matter what I did – I even bought a bed into the classroom – he wasn't interested.

"I talked to a colleague and we decided to implement a reading program that would take the student right back to picture books and eventually work to print books and then novels.

"That helped the student develop a love of reading. His mother would say that she couldn't get him to put a book down."

Ms Dewis advises those considering teaching as a career to be open to new suggestions, ideas and challenges, and to get to know the students' background and family life.

**Barbara Dewis**

St Therese's School, Bentley Park