



World Teachers' Day QLD

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worldteachersday.com.au

Nurturing talent and inspiring creativity

For Barbara Mossman teaching is a creative outlet and an opportunity to make a real difference in each of her students' lives.

Barbara is an expert in gifted and enterprise education, designing and teaching extension classes, innovative subjects, and skills development programs at Cannon Hill Anglican College in Brisbane.

"I was inspired to enter teaching because I was mentored by a number of outstanding teachers from my rural high school," Ms Mossman said.

"These special mentors encouraged intellectual stretch, nurtured me and inspired the belief that anything was possible."

"My first career was in communications and public relations. I was successful in these roles, enjoyed the experience but ultimately felt that I wasn't really doing anything that was making a difference in the world. I made the decision to enter teaching in 1991 and have never regretted it.

"My enthusiasm for my job is sustained daily by my students' delight in achieving beyond their expectations, by their willingness to embrace challenge, overcome struggle, develop confidence and achieve their potential."

Ms Mossman's role has allowed her to create new elective subjects with intriguing names such as Changing Tomorrow (a collaborative problem-solving subject) and The Project (an elective that nurtures individual passion projects).

"In The Project, I have had students pursuing ventures that range from marine biology research into diving with grey nurse sharks, electronic product development, novella writing, fashion design, short film making and original music composition."

"This year a 15-year-old student who researched diver behaviour presented her project at the Australian Marine Sciences Association National Conference in August," Ms Mossman said.

"This has launched her into an area she is passionate about.

"It's a privilege being involved with such dynamic students starting out on their journey.

"I think I'm lucky. I believe in the value of the content and learning experience that I teach so it makes it easy to share that enthusiasm and hopefully inspire the students."

Barbara Mossman

Head of Gifted and Enterprise Education,
Cannon Hill Anglican College