



Teaching through every moment

World Teachers' Day QLD

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worldteachersday.com.au

Inspiring a passion for community

Teaching has given Ben Princehorn the opportunity to introduce students to fundraising and charitable work which have become as much a part of their development as academic studies.

Mr Princehorn teaches Legal Studies and is the Coordinator of Community Services at Sunshine Coast Grammar School. He began teaching more than 25 years ago and has taught in a variety of settings including at the Australian International School in Hong Kong.

"My mother is a retired teacher and my sister teaches primary school so perhaps my love for the profession runs in the family," Mr Princehorn said.

"Teaching allows us to be a voice in the life of a young person, helping to shape them and provide them with opportunities that they may not have otherwise recognised.

"More than ever before in teaching, being an empathetic ear, a kind voice and giving perspective to the world around young people is vital.

"I work towards ensuring that my students see the world beyond their own school gates and look for opportunities to serve others. It is empowering for them and gets them looking outwards and searching for solutions rather than focusing on the problems."

Mr Princehorn said there had been moments in teaching that helped shape him as a person.

"There have been several points in time that have been very humbling and hugely rewarding," he said.

Mr Princehorn travels with students to Timor Leste to work alongside local teachers and communities to foster partnerships, make new friends and support local education projects.

Locally, he connects students to charity and support groups to ensure that they recognise their value and most importantly their responsibility to others in their community.

"I have been fortunate in working alongside our fantastic staff and families to develop a local service program for our students which connects us with local cancer patients and their families through backyard makeovers," Mr Princehorn said.

"I have been able to meet amazing homeless support advocates and connect our students to their cause.

"A recent graduate of mine kicked off her own charity supporting victims of childhood sexual abuse.

"She is a true inspiration to me and I was fortunate to be able to support her in taking the first steps. To me it's the ultimate acknowledgement of teachers having an impact."

Mr Princehorn believes teaching is a good career choice for those with a passion for their community.

"Teachers and schools more broadly, now more than ever, have a chance and responsibility to bring communities together and develop young people who are outward thinking, global citizens. Embrace it and enjoy it."

Ben Princehorn

Sunshine Coast Grammar School