



World Teachers' Day QLD

Friday 25th October 2024
worldteachersday.com.au



Teachers make a **difference**

Enrich your teaching career by truly engaging with students

Inspired by Nelson Mandela's quote, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world," History teacher Michelle Pipe strives to embody that belief every day.

Before becoming a teacher, Michelle served in the Royal Australian Air Force for 7 years. Returning to work after having a family, she wanted to join a profession where she would be able to make a difference, particularly in the lives of young people.

With her passion for history, Michelle decided to retrain as a secondary school history teacher.

"Teaching gives me the extraordinary opportunity to engage with a new generation of young people every year, helping them understand the world around them," Michelle said.

Michelle is focused on showing her students that history is not just a fixed, one-dimensional entity but a living, breathing source of insight and wisdom. She wants her students to see history as a tool for understanding our complex and often volatile world.

One of the highlights of her teaching career was the opportunity to chaperone the 2024 Queensland Premier's ANZAC Prize tour.

"It was incredibly inspiring to watch this group of students light up as they connected their textbook learning to real, hands-on historical sites."

Viewing the tour as a life-changing, career-defining experience, Michelle hopes to be able to implement similar immersive history experiences for students at Urangan State High School, providing a connection to history that classroom learning alone cannot deliver.

Although teaching can be incredibly challenging, demanding physical, mental, and emotional resilience, Michelle firmly believes the rewards are extraordinary if you take the time to truly see and understand the young person in front of you.

"Students have shaped me into the teacher I am today. Engaging with them, digging in with them on the hard days and getting to know who they are and what they want from their education and school life, enriches my teaching career immensely," Michelle said.

"Listening more than speaking, truly hearing them, and recognising their individuality has such a profound impact on their school experience."

"I find immense joy in showing my students that I care, and it deeply moves me when they tell me it made a difference for them. They are a constant source of learning for me, and a well of inspiration that never runs dry."

Michelle Pipe

Urangan State High School – Urangan QLD