



# World Teachers' Day QLD

Celebrating Teachers  
Friday 31 October 2025

[www.qld.gov.au/world-teachers-day](http://www.qld.gov.au/world-teachers-day)

## A career shaped by art, learning and community

For Julie Coutts, becoming a teacher wasn't a sudden decision, it came as a way for her to combine her visual arts passions.

'I've always loved the Visual Arts, I also love learning and I love helping people,' she said.

After casual lecturing at James Cook University in Townsville, Julie was inspired by the potential to make a broader impact and pursued the qualifications needed to teach in high schools.

Since stepping into the classroom in 2005 teaching Visual Arts, Julie has found joy in nurturing creativity, fostering curiosity, and supporting students on their educational journeys. Her first school-based role was at Pimlico State High School in Townsville, where she has taught Visual Arts and served as Head of Department for The Arts for the past 14 years.

Two of Julie's proudest moments each year are the *Pimlico Presents Variety Concert* and *Artscape Exhibition*. Both showcase student talent in music, dance, drama, art, and film, drawing over 2,500 community members annually.

What makes Julie's work truly rewarding is the opportunity to inspire students.

'One of the most rewarding aspects of my job is helping students develop the knowledge and skills to creatively and confidently express themselves. Then sharing their achievements with the community through exhibitions and performances,' she said.

Whether it's guiding a student through a complex art project or watching them shine on stage, Julie takes pride in their growth and success.

'While I've always loved making artworks, I enjoy the challenge of helping others to create art even more,' she said.

Julie sees herself as part of each student's creative journey, and their accomplishments feel like shared victories.

'When students are proud of what they do, you share in that joy. That's what motivates me.'

Julie's enthusiasm for teaching is rooted in a deep sense of purpose and connection.

'The Arts, in particular, are a way for both staff and students to meaningfully connect with and contribute to the wider school community.'

'You should never underestimate the impact you can have as a teacher. Your words, your actions, even just your presence can make a difference, from students remembering how you made them feel in your subject, to inspiring their future pathways through the opportunities you provide.'

'Teaching is challenging, but that's also what makes it so rewarding.'

### Julie Coutts

Pimlico State High School – Townsville QLD