



World Teachers' Day QLD

Celebrating Teachers
Friday 31 October 2025

www.qld.gov.au/world-teachers-day

One teacher's journey from the film set to a rural school

As the buzz of creativity and curiosity fills the classrooms of Cooktown State School, in one of those rooms is a teacher whose journey to education is anything but conventional.

Luke Higgins has a career path that spanned working on film sets, mine sites and now, rural classrooms.

'After experiencing various other careers, I decided to try my hand at teaching because I wanted to make a positive change in society,' said Luke.

'I have also always been passionate about helping others learn new skills.'

After wanting to contribute something positive to the world, Luke and his wife decided to go back to university and study teaching together.

Now teaching maths, science, and Media Arts in a remote setting, Luke finds joy in the small, powerful moments.

'The most rewarding part of my job is watching students grow in confidence as they begin to think creatively and build their problem-solving abilities,' he said.

'Seeing the lightbulb moment makes the job worth it.'

His students are more than learners, they're motivators.

'The students motivate me to keep teaching when they bring up snippets of our lesson's months later or put a learned skill into action on their own,' he says.

'The biggest inspirations are the students who get involved with extra-curricular activities. Such as, those who do photography for local community events.'

For Luke, teaching is not just a profession, it's a purpose.

'I believe that education opens doors. A well-rounded education helps not only the individual, but the wider community.'

And for those considering a similar leap into teaching, his advice is grounded in experience.

'Teaching teenagers can be a battle one day, then a rewarding experience the next. Take each day as it comes and start with a smile, don't let yesterday's nonsense ruin your rapport with your students.'

Luke Higgins

Cooktown P-12 State School (P-12) – Cooktown QLD