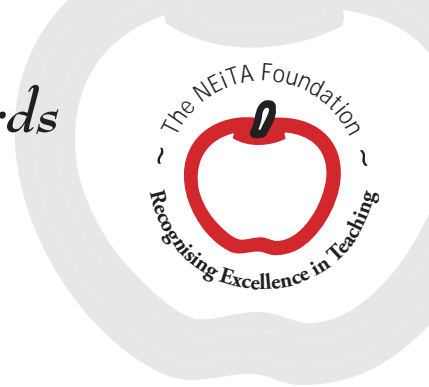


2007 National Excellence In Teaching Awards

State and Territory Teaching Excellence Award Recipient



Dorrie Chamberlain

Bachelor of Human Movement Studies (Education)
Black Mountain School, O'Connor, Australian Capital Territory
Nominated by: School parent

Position: Special Education - Transition Teacher • Level taught: Special Education • School type: Government • Town: O'Connor • Category: Secondary • State: ACT

Motivating disabled students

Dorrie Chamberlain brings more than 25 years of teaching experience to her role as teacher of moderately to severely disabled students at Black Mountain School where she develops and creates positive relationships with students, parents and the school community.

Dorrie has established productive links with the Yarralumla Nursery to enable long-term work experience opportunities for students with disabilities. She is currently developing and trialling a *Certificate 1 Horticulture* course at Black Mountain. She has also facilitated a grant to establish the school's first hydroponic garden, providing further work experience for her students.

Dorrie has instituted a post-school pathways program for her students. She works with parents to outline their child's achievements to date, their goals when they leave school, and strategies to help the families achieve these goals. She empowers students and parents to make informed decisions about their futures.

Insight

Q: In your opinion, what makes a good teacher?

A: A good teacher creates an environment where all students feel valued and are excited about learning. A good teacher celebrates all students' achievements.

Q: How do you maintain your enthusiasm for teaching?

A: Enthusiasm is contagious. I catch it from my students and my work colleagues.

Q: In hindsight, what do you wish your training provided you with more of?

A: More opportunities to observe teachers in classrooms.

Q: What is the most difficult aspect of teaching today?

A: Finding time to keep up-to-date with new initiatives, while balancing my work and life commitments.

Q: What is your greatest challenge as a teacher?

A: My greatest challenge is providing for the diverse needs and interests of students in my class. Once achieved this also provides the greatest rewards.

Q: How has teaching changed over the years?

A: The impact of technology on teaching and learning. This continues to open doors for students with disabilities.

Q: What is the single most important thing you, as a teacher, can do to connect with individual students?

A: I try to take time to 'chat' with students about things that interest them, and listen to what they have to say.

Q: If you were the Minister for Education, Science and Training for a week, what would you change?

A: I would assist tertiary institutions to provide ongoing further educational opportunities for people with high support needs.

Q: What keeps you awake at night?

A: The thought of formally speaking in front of my peers.

Q: If your students could describe you in three words, what would they say?

A: Kind, fair and fun.

Contact Details: Principal: Frank Fogliati (Acting Principal)
Phone: (02) 6205 6377

Teacher: Dorrie Chamberlain
Phone: 0407 126 185
Email: peteanddorrie@mac.com

For further information, please contact:

Janet Thomas, Public Relations, ASG on behalf of the NEiTA Foundation.
Telephone: (03) 9276 7758 Mobile: 0402 837 758 Email: publicrelations@asg.com.au

The NEiTA Foundation is administered by the Australian Scholarships Group Friendly Society Limited
ABN 21 087 648 879 Head Office: 23-35 Hanover Street Oakleigh Victoria 3166
Telephone: (03) 9276 7777 Facsimile: (03) 9563 2780 Website: www.asg.com.au or www.neita.com

Proudly supported by



Australian
Scholarships
Group

SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S EDUCATION