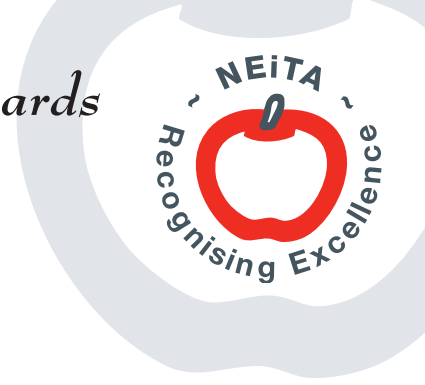


NEiTA 2009 ASG Inspirational Teaching Awards

State and Territory Award Recipient



Helen Anderson

Diploma of Teaching (Secondary Home Economics)
Caloundra State High School, Caloundra, Queensland
Nominated by: Parents and Citizens' Association

Position: Head of Department Home Economics/International, Image & Pride Committee Chairperson • Category: Secondary • Level taught: Year 8-12 • Years teaching: 24 years • Years at this school: 17 years • School type: Government • Town/Suburb: Caloundra • State: Queensland • Postcode: 4551

Why teaching?

I entered the teaching profession because I was inspired by an outstanding Home Economics teacher who made a significant difference to my life and my ambitions.

My teaching enthusiasm is inspired by the young people I work with every day. Teaching provides daily challenges with no two days ever being the same. I love the diverse range of students I come into contact with every day and the small difference I can make to their lives by being involved in their curricular and extra curricular activities.

Getting the best from every student

As Head of Home Economics at Caloundra State High School, Helen Anderson takes a one-on-one approach to tutoring and mentoring her students. She takes the time to develop individual relationships with each student, and to recognise and encourage their individual talents. Over her 17 years at the school, Helen has maintained or increased class sizes in all her subjects. Part of the popularity of her subjects is due to the real life elements of her teaching techniques. Students studying Early Childhood often get to put their lessons into practice with placements in nearby childcare centres, kindergartens or prep classrooms. Similarly, Helen has enlisted the local community to provide work experience training for her Hospitality Certificate courses.

With 24 years experience, Helen is recognised as a leader in Home Economics teaching and has written programs for Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Reporting. She also regularly mentors new or trainee teachers, and assists with her school's Pathways program to identify and assist students who are not performing to their full potential.

Helen is Chair of the Pride and Image Committee at Caloundra State High School, which is responsible for initiating school publications, uniforms, promotions and full school parades. In her role as Cultural Events Coordinator, she has also organised many dance concerts, musical recitals, drama performances and art exhibitions.

As a former state netball player, Helen has a great love for the game and has coached school netball teams for 25 years. However, as with her other teaching practices, she doesn't see winning the netball Grand Final as the ultimate prize. Just as in her classroom, her main focus on the netball court is to get "everyone to achieve their best as part of a supportive team".

Contact details:

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Teacher: Helen Anderson
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