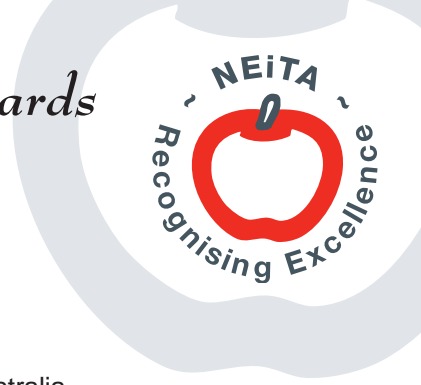


# NEiTA 2009 ASG Inspirational Teaching Awards

## State and Territory Award Recipient



## Lynda Smyth

Bachelor of Education (Primary)

**Gooseberry Hill Primary School**, Gooseberry Hill, Western Australia

Nominated by: School parent

*Position: Music specialist, Art teacher • Category: Primary • Level taught: K - 7 • Years teaching: 9 years • Years at this school: 4 years • School type: Government • Town/Suburb: Gooseberry Hill • State: Western Australia • Postcode: 6076*

### Why teaching?

I feel I was always destined for this vocation. I spent my childhood teaching neighbourhood children and my dolls!

In nine years, my passion for this profession has continued due to the sincere joy I gain from working with children. A friend of mine recently commented on how positively I speak about my job. I believe it is a great blessing to be able to get up each day and feel enthusiastic and inspired by your career.

### Sharing a love of music with all students

Lynda Smyth's enthusiasm for music is contagious. As music teacher at Gooseberry Hill Primary School, Lynda wants to make music a joyful and engaging experience for children. Her students learn through a variety of games, song writing, performance, and lessons. Lynda believes that every child has something to offer musically, and all students are encouraged to take part in the music program.

Lynda runs three choirs through the school program and often spends her own time training choir members after school or during lunchtimes. The students perform at many events and local community centres. Lynda has recently written a school song which will be professionally recorded by the performance choir. Children from years 6 & 7 contributed to the lyrics, gaining ownership of their school anthem.

The success of the school music program at Gooseberry Hill Primary has led many students to perform at the West Australian Schools Make Music Festival. The students gain enormous confidence and self-esteem from these performances. Lynda also teaches a group of 17 year 6 and 7 students in her weekly drum club. In the drum club, Lynda teaches her students rhythmic skills, whilst promoting self-esteem, responsibility and commitment.

As well as being a teacher, Lynda is a performing musician with dynamic guitar, percussion and vocal skills. She has released her own CD, 'Too Long Spring', and regularly performs around Perth and at events such as the Bickley Carmel Harvest Festival. As a successful performing artist, Lynda is a perfect role model for her students because she demonstrates what can be achieved if you follow your musical dreams. Lynda uses her music teaching at Gooseberry Hill Primary to create a positive impact; she increases self-esteem for her students, and instils a sense of community and togetherness at the school.

#### Contact details:

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