

NEiTA 2009 ASG National Teaching Awards

National Award Recipient



Stephen Measday

Bachelor of Education, Diploma of Teaching (Primary)
Keithcot Farm Primary School, Wynn Vale, South Australia
Nominated by: Governing Council
National Award Category: Innovation

Position: Principal • Category: Primary • Level taught: P-7 • Years teaching: 30 years • Years at this school: 6 years • School type: Government • Town/Suburb: Wynn Vale • State: South Australia • Postcode: 5127

How do you inspire your students?

As a new principal five years ago, I saw the potential for this school to be something special and for our students to have access to a curriculum which is forward thinking, broadly based and challenging. I am a great believer that the culture of a school community shapes the outcomes for the students. We also place no limits on what might be possible. Students travel and communicate internationally and across Australia, and have a very broad range of learning opportunities which will support their learning for life.

A principal 'linking learning to life'

For the last 24 years, Stephen Measday has worked as a principal in country and metropolitan schools providing support services to school communities across 80% of South Australia.

Six years ago, Stephen Measday took over as principal of Keithcot Farm Primary School in Wynn Vale, a north-eastern suburb of Adelaide. He immediately embarked on a campaign to build on previous innovation, continuing to modernise and revitalise the school and its community. He restructured the school's leadership team and expanded the school's curriculum to offer a diverse range of specialist learning options. Stephen oversaw the complete renovation of the school grounds and teaching areas, and managed three major school building projects.

As principal, Stephen's main aim was to bring his vision to the students and school community of Keithcot Farm Primary. He initiated the use of new learning technologies including interactive whiteboards, robotics, media studies labs, video linking and a range of technology tools used by students across the school. To encourage student engagement, Stephen made sure that the school's curriculum was relevant and appropriate to the everyday lives of students. This philosophy is reflected in the school's motto 'Linking Learning to Life'.

Stephen wants his pupils to see themselves as part of the world at large. To this end, Stephen has become very involved in international education. He has established a widespread international program at Keithcot Farm Primary School with short term visiting students, teacher training options, sister schools, and contracted arrangements with international education institutions. Stephen's school supported all training and development for every Japanese language teacher in South Australia for three years, and teachers and students from Keithcot travel on exchange programs to Korea and Japan. Keithcot Farm is regularly visited by educators from around the world.

Stephen has travelled to the Philippines and supported the Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao project run by the Philippines Department of Education and AusAID to enhance learning systems in remote areas. In Korea, Stephen has worked with the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation. He was also a guest speaker at the World Gifted Education Conference in Beijing.

Stephen clearly leads by example. The school has a vibrant school community of 520 students and waiting lists for the next three years.

In 2008, the school won a Federal Government's National Schooling Award for Excellence in School Improvement.

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