



Teacher Profile – Fiona McKeown

Hello,

My name is Fiona McKeown. I am currently teaching a multi-aged class at Perseverance Primary School.

I have been teaching since 1985. I graduated from Burwood Teachers College then moved to the Wimmera to begin my teaching career in Kaniva Consolidated School. I taught there for two years then travelled overseas through Africa.

On my return to Australia I taught at Springvale West Primary School for a year in Grade Three. I then departed Melbourne moving to Mildura and teaching at Colignan Primary School on the banks of the Murray River. I taught Grade Prep/One. Two years later I moved to the Yarrawonga area, again on the Murray River, and taught at Yarrawonga Primary School for ten years. From Yarrawonga I moved overseas to Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia to teach in a local school (Hobby School) for one year and an international school (International School of Ulaanbaatar) for one year. I then spent five years teaching in Shenzhen, China in Quality Schools International's school in Shekou. Last year I returned to Australia and taught for one term at Mornington Primary School.

Throughout my teaching career I have enjoyed teaching all grade levels as a classroom teacher and occasionally held the Art and P.E. specialist roles. Whilst teaching in Yarrawonga I studied through distance education with Ballarat University and gained my Graduate Diploma in Education. I continued these studies later, whilst living in China, and gained my Masters in Education.

Perseverance Primary is a unique and wonderful place. It has the ambience typical of small rural communities. We are surrounded by pastures and revel in the spaciousness and beauty. We regularly enjoy the company of echidnas, koalas and a wide variety of birdlife.

The school has excellent facilities including modern, shaded playground equipment, a substantial cubby house, a roomy chook shed (housing six exceptionally-loved hens) and a vegetable garden. We have a computer work station for each child and fibre optic internet connection. We have a brand new Art room and a kitchen

We currently have four children enrolled. They are in Grades Prep, One and Two. We have three more imminent enrolments that we are eager to welcome! Our small number of enrolments offers unique opportunities for extensive differentiation; each child receives very personalised and flexible learning programs. It is very rewarding for the children to have frequent support from their teacher and it is satisfying for me to see the confidence, excitement and eagerness the students show as they progress quickly.

We greatly value and enjoy close community involvement. We utilise local community members in our chook care, vegetable garden, karate classes, craft classes, Landcare projects and Parks Victoria's excursions.

We are annexed by Crib Point Primary School. This means their principal, Lisa Vandebosch, is our principal. This is a very constructive relationship. We receive complete support in administration and enjoy a great deal of professional networking. We attend Crib Point Primary School regularly, enjoying the opportunity to 'belong' in a big group and they visit us, enjoying the rural experience.

I am thrilled to teach here.

Best wishes, Fiona McKeown M.Ed