

Past Student Spotlight

KyMBERLEY Weatherall (2006)



I attended St George State School and St George State High School (SHS) to complete my schooling, where I was NIXON house captain at both schools. After graduating from high school in 2006 I started working as a teacher aide at St George SHS through the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP). At the time I felt this wasn't a job for me, especially just graduating. While still on the CDEP in 2007 I started working as a Centrelink agent/ receptionist at the St George Aboriginal Housing Company.

One day I received a phone call from Mrs Marg Poplawski asking if I wanted to complete a Diploma of Education through the Remote Area Teacher Education Program (RATEP), a community-based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teacher education pathway. At first, I didn't even think it was possible for me to become a teacher. Months later I decided to give it a go and completed my Diploma in 2008. I started my Bachelor of Education through James Cook University in 2009. However, due to family circumstances I had to put university on hold.

In 2010 I started working at St George SHS as the Community Education Counsellor. This is where I found my passion for youth and education. The Principal at the time, Annette Woodrow, convinced me to go back to study. In 2011 I started back studying (part-time) and five years later completed my Bachelor of Education, where I swore to never study again.

In 2016 I was lucky enough to score my first teaching gig at St George SHS, where I absolutely fell in love with teaching. I was certainly blessed with an amazing group of students and co-teacher Natalie Taggart. Throughout my seven years teaching at St George SHS I have had the opportunity of being a part of the Take the Lead Program - aspiring middle leaders, implementing and teaching Indigenous Languages, Year Level coordinator and Acting Head of Department. As much as I loved teaching, I always knew my true passion lay with supporting children in a different role. 2021 I decided to go back to study and complete my Masters of Guidance and Counselling (part-time).

In 2023 (my favourite year of them all) I welcomed my little boy 'Ollie' into the world. While on maternity leave, I set myself a goal to complete my Masters, which meant studying fulltime with a newborn. Blessed, for my village, I was able to reach my goal. This year I have been fortunate enough to score a part-time Guidance Officer role at St George State School and

the smaller schools in our region - Dirranbandi, Thallon, Bollon, Begonia and Hebel, which I am absolutely loving.

Growing up, being able to study externally and working in St George I have never been short of an education or opportunities to achieve my goals. I was blessed to have such a great education at St George SHS with so many amazing teachers that left an imprint on my life. An even bigger blessing was to be able to teach alongside those dedicated teachers who had taught me.

Kymerley Weatherall