

TECe Bulletin



Teacher Enhancement Centre: Giving you the best start to your teaching career.



Message from our Director: Linda Eager

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas Break and an exciting start to 2025, especially to our 150 2024 Graduating TECes. We love hearing your excitement as you share your beginning teacher journey at your new school – from Woorabinda to Winton to Kowanyama to Mapoon! We hope that all our mentoring, weekly YouTubes or Podcasts, Immersion Days, “Best Fit” placements and chats will give you the best possible start to your career.

We look forward to meeting many of our 2025/6 TECes on our school Immersion Program on the first 2 days of Term 1 – a fabulous opportunity to work with a school mentor and see how an experienced teacher prepares and manages their classroom at the start of a year. Many thanks to the teachers at Nambour State College, North Lakes State College for supporting our future teachers in regional, rural and remote schools.

This year has been huge!

- ★ 150+ Graduating TECes;
- ★ chatting to over 210 new TECes for 2025;
- ★ 524 applications (over 2 years);
- ★ 150+ Discovery TECes;
- ★ 5 diverse trips across DDSW, NQ and FNQ;
- ★ 130+ general PSTs

as well as countless forums and guest educational lectures with our university partners.

Many thanks to our university colleagues who make our work so professionally and personally rewarding.

Congratulations to our fabulous Alicia Balea (TECe Lead Mentor), who you all know and love – who will be Principal at Kindon SS in DDSW for Term 1. We are so thrilled for Alicia and Kindon. Read all about Alicia’s time at Kindon in our Term 1 Telegraph.

We welcome Katie Whitehead to the TECe team as a Lead Mentor and to Kelvin Grove SC as a Maths/Science Teacher. Katie was a 2016 TECe “original” and an amazing alumni to Tara SC. Read about Katie’s career below.

Enjoy your break, whether long or short. May it be balanced with great outdoor walks and thrilling Netflix series. Linda



TECe Alumni - Taryn Champions Chinchilla

From the start of my education degree, I was eager to make a difference, inspired by the amazing teachers who shaped my life. The TECe program felt like a dream come true, offering a clear path to rural teaching. With the guidance of a fantastic metro mentor, I navigated the early stages of my career, discovering the joys of rural education.

My final year of university through TECe included an unforgettable Roma trip, which showcased the beauty of rural life. I was thrilled to be placed in Chinchilla for my final practicum and internship, where I built strong relationships with the staff. This led to a permanent full-time position at Chinchilla State School. Although the initial expectation was for a three-year stay, I found myself remaining longer out west due to the many rewarding experiences.

Growth:

- **Community Visibility:** Adjusting to being recognized everywhere was a new experience—no more quick trips to Woolies in trackies without bumping into someone!
- **Behaviour Management:** Quickly mastering this was crucial, especially with diverse classroom demographics. Building rapport and respect was key.
- **Professional Development:** Ongoing professional development opportunities through my rural placement continued to support and enhance my teaching experience, ensuring I stayed up-to-date with the latest educational practices.
- **Rapport:** Building rapport with students and the community was incredibly rewarding, as it helped me navigate the challenges of teaching, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Teaching in a rural town during this time presented unique challenges, but also highlighted the strength and resilience of the community.
- **Avoiding Isolation:** As a beginning teacher, it was only natural to feel isolated. Ensuring I participated in community events, as well as engaging with colleagues at every opportunity provided the support needed.

Rewards:

- **Community Involvement:** I became a local dance and Zumba instructor, volunteered at trail rides, and participated in the Watermelon Festival. These activities deepened my connection with the community.
- **Lifelong Friendships:** The welcoming people, diverse landscapes, and supportive community made rural Queensland feel like home. The friendships I formed at Chinchilla State School are lifelong.

Why TECe? I joined TECe in 2017 to achieve job security and stability in a fluctuating career landscape. TECe provided the support and assurance I needed. Leaving the comfort of home in inner-city Brisbane to teach in a rural area was a significant transition, but the support from TECe made it much smoother. Their guidance and resources ensured I felt prepared and confident in my new environment, helping me embrace the unique opportunities and challenges of rural teaching.

Career Transition: TECe opened doors to a permanent position outside Brisbane, giving me a sense of belonging and a guaranteed transfer back to a desired location without losing points. I am now a permanent teacher in Brisbane who often encourages prac students and beginning teachers to take the leap to go rural—the rewards are immeasurable.

Proudest Moments: Where do I begin? My rural teaching experience has been filled with countless proud moments - it's difficult to only name a few.

I strongly recommend participating in the TECe program as a beginning years teacher.



for Book Week parade



Welcome to the TECe Team, Katie Whitehead!

The TECe Team are thrilled to introduce **Katie Whitehead** who is joining us in

2025 from Jindalee State School. Katie is one of our original TECe's from when the program first began back in 2016, and has been kind enough to share some insight of her RRR experience:

Thinking back to your time in your location, what did you love about the region, community and life in rural Queensland?

Life in Tara was the change of pace I needed. After a hectic few years studying and working, I was looking forward to a change. With only 800 people in the town and 2000 in the district, the compact town has a lot to offer. There is plenty to do there - country drives on the weekend, bonfires at a teacher's place, weekly pub dinners, social netball league. Not to mention the special events of the region like the Festival of Culture and Camel Races, and the Watermelon Festival. I met some of my closest friends in my time at Tara, and my time and experience from my years there are something that I will always look back on fondly.

What are some of your proudest moments living and teaching in your rural community?

- Taking on pre-service teachers in my second year of teaching - supporting early career teachers is something I have really enjoyed since.
- Running multiple netball teams across the school, district and region - the opportunity to work with students and families outside of the classroom really helped build community connections and trust
- Leading a sector team and organising excursions and incursions from my second year of teaching
- Meeting some of the most incredible colleagues and life-long friends
- Developing my knowledge and skills thoroughly, and being prepared to take on more leadership responsibilities upon my return to metro.

What made you join the TECe as a pre-service teacher?

If I'm truly honest - my friend (shout out to Maddie!). I felt lost as the end of my degree loomed nearer. I found the concept of a whole state of opportunity overwhelming and the thought of getting a job in metro impossible. Director of TECe, Linda, came to one of my tutorials and pitched the TECe to us - an unheard of program at the time. After putting in my application and going through the interview process, I felt more and more confident that this was the right the choice.

How did the TECe help you to transition into your teaching career?

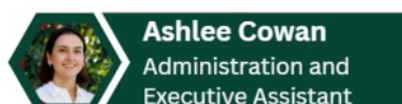
I was very nervous about starting my graduate year, and being a part of the TECe community for my final year of study was a great way to ease those nerves. The support TECe provided was unparalleled and focused on the practical day-to-day life of teaching. Linda's motto was "busting the myths" including teacher application, using departmental websites, communicating with parents, pedagogy and behaviour management. The rural experience trip provided a bonding opportunity, as well as networking and an understanding of life in a rural hub. As I entered my first year, I had a group of 20-30 people to tap into throughout the year, and the confidence that I was entering my career prepared.



As we wrap up 2024, we want to extend a heartfelt thanks to all the university PEx Teams, State Schools, Regional HR teams, and pre-service teachers for your dedication and hard work. Your commitment to excellence has truly made a difference.

A big congratulations to all our 2024 graduates! We can't wait to see the amazing things you'll do in the future. Please continue to update us on your achievements!

To our new TECes, welcome! We're excited to have you join us and look forward to working hard for you in the New Year. Here's to a successful year ahead!



Ashlee Cowan
Administration and
Executive Assistant



Mia Gibson
Lead Mentor: Secondary
English/Legal Studies



Alicia Balea
Lead Mentor: Primary
Year 2 Teacher



Linda Eager
Director: KGTECe
KG Deputy Principal



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Happy Holidays!