

# Doncaster Primary School – Principal



## Jim Hill

### History of Employment

As a teacher I taught in the North East of Victoria where I also started being a Principal near Wangaratta. I then moved to Mildura for five years before Melbourne in 2008. I loved working in small rural schools and was a shared specialist at one stage. This was teaching Physical Education at nine small schools. I went to a different school each day. One of my schools was Falls Creek which I visited once a fortnight. I have also taught in England twice and Germany at the International School of Hamburg as part of the Victorian Exchange Teachers program.

### Skills and Achievements

Prior to studying teaching I went to the Centre for Performing Arts in Adelaide for two years. I wasn't great, this was never going to be a career but I had an amazing time. I then completed an Arts degree followed by a Diploma and Bachelor of Teaching - Primary. As computers became a big part of education I completed a Graduate Diploma in Computers in Education. I also completed a Graduate Diploma in Health and Welfare issues in Education. I have also completed a Masters in Educational Leadership and my final study was to gain accreditation in International Growth Coaching which I achieved this year after two years of study. Obviously I enjoy learning and can say I am a life long learning.



### Who was your favourite teacher at school and why?

My favourite teacher at school was a man called Mr. Herr. He was my Physical Education teacher at high school. He was also my first basketball coach when I played in under 12's. I later played in the same team as him. When I go home to Adelaide I always catch up with him for dinner and love our conversations. I have learned a lot from him about school, education, sport and life.

### If I wasn't a teacher I would like to be.....

If I wasn't a teacher/principal my dream job would be to manage a horse agistment property. I learned to ride at a young age and grew up with horses and have continued riding for most of my life. There is nothing better than riding a horse through the bush on a cold rainy morning!

# Doncaster Primary School – Assistant Principal

## Larissa Vesdrevanis



### Career highlights

I have been in education for most of my adult life both in Canada and Australia. When I moved to Australia, I started at Doncaster Primary School in 2000 and have remained connected to DPS even when I left to teach at Mitcham Primary school for 5 years. I am a qualified Montessori Primary teacher and Growth Coach. My greatest career highlights were becoming a Leading teacher and Assistant Principal where I could extend my work on a larger scale. But beyond this my greatest highlight was working with a diverse group of students who were struggling to get along and this caused division in the school. By working together towards a shared goal, we were able to overcome this challenge and regain connection.

### What do you Like about Doncaster Primary School?

I like that we are a culturally rich community and how this enriches the learning environment for our students and the broader community. We have a long history of serving the community of Doncaster and I believe that this gives us a strong sense of responsibility and pride. Our school values underpin everything we do, and this gives us shared connection and purpose. I have always been proud to be a teacher at DPS.



### What makes Doncaster Primary a great school to work at?

Doncaster Primary School is a great school to work at because of the teachers' commitment and care for our students and for each other. Not to mention, that we have good kids at our school and parents who value education. We are a great school because we strive for excellence and are committed to the idea that learning is a lifelong endeavour.

### Who was your favourite teacher and why?

My favourite teacher was Mr. Faria in year 10, because he had a way of connecting with his students on an individual level. He helped his students discover their strengths through positive and authentic feedback. Mr Faria's influence inspired me to become a teacher and the importance of my role in shaping student potential.

# Doncaster Primary School – Business Manager



## Natalie Pike

### History of employment

Norwood Secondary College, Croydon PS, Gas & Fuel and KFC!

### Skills and Achievements

When I was 20, I completed a 28 day course in the bush called Outward Bound. I did rock climbing, abseiling, white water rafting, caving and, hiking over mountain ranges. It was very hard and I am proud I finished it.

### Who was your favourite teacher at school and why?

My grade 6 teacher Mr Mike Mc Cabe – he taught me how to play guitar.

### When not at school I like to.....

When not at school I like to do leadlight art, fishing and bush walking.



# Doncaster Primary School – Office Manager



## Rebecca Rolfe

### History of Employment

I have worked in education for over 25 years. I started as an education support worker at Eltham and North Warrandyte Kindergartens before starting at Doncaster Primary School. I worked at as an ES for about 15 years before moving into the office.

### When not at school I like to .....

When I am not at school, I like to spend time with my family. We go on bush walks and hikes almost every weekend that was before lockdown. Our most recent walks have been to waterfalls in Victoria. We have been too several so far, the Mason Falls in Kinglake is a great one to visit with the family. I also like to go to the beach and explore country Victoria.

### What do you like about Doncaster Primary?

DPS is an amazing school to work at. I have worked here for over 20 years and have seen many changes from the buildings and grounds to teachers and students. Each year is different, but the same caring and supportive feel remains.

### My family

In my family, I have my husband Matt & 3 daughters. One who now has a family of her own and my 10 year old twins. We enjoy going on long walks, spending time outside and cooking together.





## Cinzia Fava – Prep teacher

### My Family

There are 4 members of my immediate family – well five if you count the dog. My husband Steven and I are the proud parents of two beautiful children. Sebastian is 9 and loves anything to do with soccer. Leila is 7 and always has a smile on her face. Messi our spoodle loves to walk and steal our shoes and socks! We live locally and our children are very proud DPS students.

### History of employment

I have been in education for over 20 years and have taught all year levels during that time. I started my teaching career as an Italian teacher for COASIT whilst I was studying. My first 'real' teaching job was at Boroondara Park in North Balwyn. After nine years at BPPS I left to take on a leading teacher position at Templestowe Park Primary. After taking family leave I secured my position at Doncaster Primary School! I have been at DPS for almost 4 years and am currently a very proud Prep teacher.



### What makes Doncaster Primary a great school to work at?

DPS is a great place to work. We have wonderful, caring, clever and compassionate staff members. It is such a pleasure to work with such talented people who want to make a difference in their students' lives. We have supportive parents who are involved in the school community. Most importantly we have the BEST kids who never fail to put a smile on my face. What else could I ask for? Well.... being close to home is an added bonus too!

**When not at school** I like to spend time with my family, walk in the park, cook and visit the beach. I especially love keeping fit and helping others to reach their fitness goals. I am able to do this through my job as a fitness instructor at Aquarena. We love going to Mornington Peninsula whenever we have some spare time. Walking along the beach and sitting in the sunshine is definitely one of my favourite things to do. Sun, water, sand and exercise is my perfect wellbeing recipe!

# Doncaster Primary School – Teacher



## Sarah Quinn - Prep teacher

### History of employment

I lived and worked in the Greater Shepparton area for 7 years. In Greater Shepparton I taught at schools with students who had additional needs or came from low-socioeconomic backgrounds with generational poverty. This equipped me with many additional skills to support learning for all students. I moved to Melbourne where I worked at a school in Balwyn North, prior being lucky enough to be successful at getting at job at Doncaster Primary School.

### What do you like about Doncaster Primary?

I love working at DPS. The community is wonderful, we are so lucky to have brilliant students, parents and staff making DPS a great school to be part of. I love how at DPS we foster each and every child to be a lifelong learner.



### Who was your favourite teacher at school and why?

Mrs Dearnaley was my favourite teacher, she was my year 12 home economics teacher. Mrs Dearnaley cared about her students like they were her family. She made each and every student feel valuable and special and I strive to be like her each and every day.

### When not at school I like to.....

When I'm not at school I love walking my little dog Bailey, watching Collingwood win games at the MCG and seeing friends and family.



## **Alisha Spiteri - Prep teacher**

### **What makes Doncaster Primary a great school to work at?**

The teachers and staff are very supportive and encouraging. Everyone is very caring and polite to work with. The students are amazing and are always trying their very best in their learning. We are very lucky to have amazing spacious classrooms and school grounds where we can complete lots of different activities and events throughout the year.

### **Who was your favourite teacher at school and why?**

My Grade One teacher at Primary School. She used to read the The Faraway Tree novel series to us after lunch. She always made learning fun and we did a lot of outside learning experiences. She was very kind and always made us laugh!

### **When not at school I like to.....**

I like cooking, baking in particular and sharing these with my family and friends. I enjoy going on walks and being active. I also enjoy spending time with my family and friends and making lots of memories together.

### **If I wasn't a teacher I would like to be.....**

A nutritionist, which is someone who advises others on matters of food and nutrition and their impacts on health. I really enjoy learning and reading about the nutrition content in food and ways of attaining the best possible health outcomes and wellbeing. In addition, I like to experiment with food and create new recipes.



# Doncaster Primary School – Teacher



## Brent Granger – Grade 1

### **What do you like about Doncaster Primary?**

The staff at D.P.S encourage and support students to aim high and achieve their personal best. Students are always placed at the centre of every decision made. Wellbeing is a high priority at that school with different programs running from prep to six that aim to develop students social and emotional skills.

### **What makes Doncaster Primary a great school to work at?**

The school has modern facilities, fantastic staff and dedicated students. The teachers work collaboratively to create and implement engaging learning programs that allow all students to achieve success. All staff share their knowledge and expertise and learn from and with one another.



### **When not at school I like to.....**

When not at school I like to spend time reading books by my favourite authors. I enjoy travelling and learning about different parts of the world. I also like to keep active by walking each day.

### **What is your career highlights to date?**

I have coordinated different year levels and led teams across the school. I have mentored and supported many new staff at the beginning of their teaching career. I have undertaken a range of professional development and seen the positive impact that this has had on student outcomes.

# Doncaster Primary School – Teacher



## Jessica White – Grade 1

### History of employment

Before I started working at Doncaster Primary school I was an electronics technician at a scoreboard making business. I would build scoreboard and control panels and they were installed all over Australia. It was a great experience working there.

### Who was your favourite teacher at school and why?

My favourite teacher was my grade 5 teacher. She was an extremely kind and funny teacher. I was not very confident when it came to Maths and English, but when I moved on to grade 6 I felt as though I was able to do anything I put my mind to because this teacher believed in me and gave me confidence.



### What makes Doncaster Primary a great school to work at?

Doncaster Primary is a great school to work at because all the staff members are so supportive and kind, I am very lucky to work here! Doncaster Primary definitely have the best student, in the two years that I have worked here there isn't a day that's gone by where students haven't asked me how I am, they all have beautiful manners!

### If I wasn't a teacher I would like to be.....

If I wasn't a teacher I would love to be a full-time renovator! I am obsessed with The Block and I enjoy finding old furniture on the street or from second hand stores and giving it a makeover.



## Carly Epskamp – Grade 2

### **Who was your favourite teacher at school and why?**

When I was in Grade Three, I had a great teacher called Mr Payne. He used to always make the class laugh and when he read books to the class, he made up funny voices. Every Friday, he would take us outside for a game after we'd done our spelling test, because he loved sport and he wanted us to love it too.

### **When not at school I like to.....**

When I'm not at school I like to take my dog for a walk, go to the beach and visit my family. I also enjoy going to the footy, going to the movies and going out for dinner with friends.

### **If I wasn't a teacher I would like to be.....**

If I wasn't a teacher I would like to be an interior designer because I think it would be fun to organise and decorate other peoples houses. When I was younger I thought about becoming a hairdresser, because I loved doing other peoples hair.

### **My Family.**

I have quite a small family. Growing up it was my Mum, Dad and sister. We also had a dog named Laddie who was a corgi. Now I live with my fiancé Julian, his two kids and our puppy Saint.



# Doncaster Primary School – Teacher



## Lachlan Poulton – Grade 2, Health & Safety Officer

### What makes Doncaster Primary a great school to work at?

Doncaster Primary is a great school to work at because students come first.

### Skills and Achievements

My career highlights include working with great teachers and teaching awesome students.

### Who was your favourite teacher at school and why?

My favourite teacher was my grade 3 teacher Mr Hazelgrove because he was fun.

### When not at school I like to.....

When not at school I like to maintain a healthy mind and body by remaining active



# Doncaster Primary School – Teacher



## Kathey Coumaros – Grade 2

### What I like about Doncaster Primary?

I really like the students, teachers and staff at DPS. Everyone is friendly, kind, caring and has a strong work ethic to continue to make our school the best!

I love that I live within the community of DPS and get to see our students around Doncaster in various local places outside the perimeters of the school grounds.

### Skills and achievements.

Previously to DPS, I taught at Alphington Grammar for ten years. I had the opportunity to travel to Thessaloniki, Greece and complete a teaching Fellowship in Greek because I was teaching Greek. This explains why all the students who are in my class at DPS are also taught Greek and the origin of words that come from the Greek language. I am most proud of this because it was challenging and love that my past students remember me for this!



### Who was your favourite teacher at school and why?

My favourite teacher was Dr Tamis. He was my year 12 Greek teacher. The reason I particularly enjoyed his classes was because he genuinely cared about us and would give us advice for life. We would have amazing class discussions that did not necessarily have anything to do with the lesson at the time. We all had an excellent relationship with him and never missed his class.

### When not at school I like to.....

When not at school, I like to walk every day. I generally average about ten thousand steps each day. I also take care of my mother who is elderly and lives her own.

I also enjoy reading, cooking, watching movies and spending time with my family.



## Julia Bay – Grade 3

### **What makes Doncaster Primary a great school to work at?**

Doncaster Primary School is certainly a great school to work at! The best things about DPS is that it is full of friendly, curious and unique students. I love the fact that there is so much diversity among the students at DPS and that everyone celebrates other people's cultures, skills and talents. Every day I get to learn something new and every day I am entertained with interesting stories and facts.

### **Who was your favourite teacher at school and why?**

My favourite teacher when I was at school was Mrs Appleby, who taught me in Grade 3. She was extremely kind and very funny and I loved being in her class. I remember she would always read stories to us and put on voices to match the character. I think this helped develop my love of reading.

### **When not at school I like to.....**

One of my favourite things to do when I am not at school is run. I run pretty much every day (sometimes twice a day) and I try to run as many kilometres as I can each week. I find that running keeps me focused and makes me feel great. I also enjoy dancing and I belong to a dance group with some of my friends. I really enjoy the creativity and energy of dancing. Some other things I enjoy outside school are gardening, reading and playing with my dog.

### **If I wasn't a teacher I would like to be.....**

This is a hard question because I ABSOLUTELY LOVE being a teacher! However, if I was not a teacher, I think I would like to be a gardener or florist. I really enjoy gardening and have many plants in and around my house. I think all flowers are beautiful and I enjoy walking around my neighbourhood and investigating the interesting gardens and flowers.





## Priscilla Gale – Grade 3

### History of employment?

I have worked in a number of different jobs with people from both ends of the lifespan. I have worked in Foster Care, Child and Adolescent Mental Health and teaching with young people, and in Community Aged Care Packages and in local council supporting older people.

### What do you like about Doncaster Primary?

I love the people at D.P.S. The staff, the parents and the wonderful students. There is a culture of care that I see demonstrated daily that makes me comfortable.

### Who was your favourite teacher at school and why?

My favourite teacher, Mrs. Solly, taught me twice in primary school. I loved her because I could tell she was interested in her students, she was fair, and she had a sense of humour. Making her laugh was a treat!

### When not at school I like to.....

When not at school I like to read, watch tv with my family, listen to podcasts, go to the movies, talk on the phone, eat out, go op shopping and walk my dog. There's definitely a theme of a love of a good story being shared.





## Courtney Larsen – Grade 3

### **Who was your favourite teacher at school and why?**

When I was in grade 6 I had the best teacher in the world. His name was Gerard (we called our teachers by their first names) and he was more than just a teacher to me and many other kids in our class. Gerard was so much fun and made everyday at school the best day ever. I still keep in contact with him today!

### **When not at school I like to.....**

When I'm not at school I am usually on holiday in Bali. Since I was just a baby I have been holidaying in Bali a couple times a year, every year. You will find me sitting on the beach watching the waves. It's my favourite place in the entire world. I can't wait to get back there as soon as the borders open.



# Doncaster Primary School – Teacher



## **Dimitra Ferizis – Grade 4**

### **What makes Doncaster Primary a great school to work at?**

The community which includes the parents, children and staff - past and present.

### **Who was your favourite teacher at school and why?**

My grade 4 teacher as I was able to make a connection with her through the daily stories she shared about her life. Now I do the same!

### **When not at school I like to.....**

When not at school I like to hang out with my own kids.

### **If I wasn't a teacher I would like to be.....**

If I wasn't a teacher I would like to be - living on a tropical island.





## Marika Quinonero – Grade 4

### History of employment

Before I was a teacher I had a few different occupations. I had my own business where I created Business and Marketing plans for small businesses and new Start up businesses. I was also a Marriage Celebrant for about 10 years. Although my favourite occupation is Teaching of course!

### When not at school I like to.....

Try different recipes and then cook them for my friends and family. I also enjoy listening to music and travelling around Australia in our caravan.

### Who was your favourite teacher at school and why?

My favourite teacher was my grade 3 teacher because she always made me laugh. She had so many funny sayings, and she also taught me my times tables.

### My Family

My husband and I have 3 amazing boys, Joseph, Anthony and Tommy. We like spending time outdoors and caravanning.



# Doncaster Primary School – Teacher



## Diane Meilak – Grade 4

### **History of employment.**

I've only ever worked at Doncaster Primary School and started in 2009 as a graduate teacher. It holds a special place in my heart as my mum attended DPS in 1970. My daughter, Isabella is in Prep this year and I'm so happy that she attends the school I work at with the most amazing staff and students.

### **When not at school I like to.....**

When not at school I like to travel, go to the movies and the gym. I also love spending time outside and walking around my neighbourhood. I love going to restaurants for dinner with my friends and family.

### **Who was your favourite teacher at school and why?**

I still remember my Prep teacher at Milgate Primary School. Her name was Mrs Djoneff and she was so calm in her teaching approach. She also had a passion for music and brought this into the classroom by always singing songs and making it really exciting for her students.

### **My Family.**

In my family I have my husband Marc and two children, Isabella and Luke. Luke is 4 and Isabella is 5. I also have a pet dog who is a Labradoodle, named Pepi.



# Doncaster Primary School – Teacher



## Kelly Soccio – Grade 4

### History of employment?

I've worked at DPS since 2006. In that 15 years I have spent some time away having my family (I have 3 children). But it's never been too long before I'd come back in some sort of part-time role to spend time at our school.

### What makes Doncaster Primary a great school to work at?

All of the students, fellow staff and the community are what makes DPS such a great school. I absolutely love coming to work each day to spend time with my students and the other staff. It's the wonderful relationships we form, the fun we have and the things we learn and achieve together that make it so worthwhile.

### What is your career highlights to date?

There are so many wonderful memories I have and highlights so far, that it is hard to think of a single one. I am always reminded of how quickly time passes when the students I once knew to be in Prep are suddenly celebrating their Level 6 graduation. It's such a wonderful celebration and I feel grateful to have witnessed so many students' growth over the years. I especially love it when former DPS students come back as secondary school students and even young adults to say hi and let me know what they're up to.

### When not at school I like to.....

Spend time with my family. We enjoy going for long walks or bike rides all together. I also love spending time with my friends, cooking and finding a nice quiet place to sit and read a good book.



# Doncaster Primary School – Teacher



## Vanessa Keen – Grade 5

### History of employment?

I have worked at Doncaster Primary for my whole career since I was first out of university. When my children were very little I did do CRT for a short time and sometimes worked at DPS then as well. I have never wanted to leave here because the students and staff are so wonderful.

### Who was your favourite teacher at school and why?

My favourite teacher of all time was my grade 5 teacher, Mrs Connell. She treated everyone fairly and made learning fun. I remember her as being super friendly and always had a smile for everyone.

### When not at school I like to:

Mostly I like to spend time with my family and go for walks around the park near my house. I also like to sew my own clothes, do puzzles and read books.

### My family:

I live with my husband, who is also a teacher, and my two daughters. My oldest daughter is 13 and is in Year 7 now, and my youngest is 11 and is in Year 5. They don't go to DPS because they go to the school where my husband works which is closer to home!





## Adam O'Callaghan – Grade 5

### **What makes Doncaster Primary a great school to work at?**

What makes Doncaster Primary a great place to work is the community. Every day I get to spend time chatting with amazing colleagues, fantastic students and incredible parents. It's the relationships that make me enjoy coming into school.

### **Who was your favourite teacher at school and why?**

My favourite teacher in school was my Year 10 English teacher. He was a great teacher because he was always happy to joke around and talk with me. We built a friendship and this helped drive me to become a better student and is the reason I am a teacher.

### **When not at school I like to.....**

When I am not at school I like to go diving. I feel at home in the ocean and I am always amazed at all the sea life, it is like another world under the waves.

### **If I wasn't a teacher I would like to be.....**

If I wasn't a teacher I would like to be a professional cricket player and play for the Australian Cricket team and the Melbourne Stars. I would love to travel around the world playing my favourite sport and meeting some of my sporting heroes. I have also always wanted to stand in the middle of the MCG on Boxing day.



# Doncaster Primary School – Leading Teacher



## Niky Corfios – Grade 6

### **My history of employment**

My teaching career began in South Africa where I taught for 12 years at the primary school that I attended at as a student. I was honoured to teach alongside my favourite teacher of all times, my year 6 teacher. She was my hero as a student and the greatest mentor as a teacher. My next teaching journey was in Brisbane where I taught for 5 years. Finally, I landed in Melbourne where I have been fortunate to teach for 14 years and counting...

### **My Family and other Interest**

Immigrating to Australia with my family; husband, daughter and son has been one the best decisions and highlights of my life. We enjoy spending time together at home, walking around our beautiful parks in our area and love eating out at all our fine restaurants in Melbourne. As a family, we also enjoy travelling around the world and have visited many incredible countries, our favourites being Greece and South Africa.



### **What I like about Doncaster Primary and why it is a great school to work at.....**

After teaching for so many years I feel extremely privileged to be teaching at Doncaster Primary. The main reason I chose DPS is that it has an excellent reputation for the quality of its teachers and the high calibre of its students. The teachers have a repertoire of knowledge, skills and insights and this leads to our students being passionate and avid learners. What I love most about DPS is the strong inclusive and caring setting we foster for all our community; students, parents, carers. The staff are a committed team to help provide a supportive and learning environment so that every DPS student can achieve greatness, academically and emotionally.

# Doncaster Primary School – Teacher



## Andrew Johnson – Grade 6

### History of Employment

I have enjoyed working in several schools over the past 13 years which has helped me learn a variety of different skills and approaches towards teaching. At my previous school I was the Wellbeing Coordinator and also taught PE and I was in the classroom too. I have been fortunate, over the years, to teach many year levels as a classroom teacher - Year 2, 4, 5 and 6.

### What makes Doncaster Primary a great school to work at?

It is a privilege to be part of the DPS community. Our students are respectful and motivated to learn. I am grateful to work with such supportive and passionate staff. I enjoy coming to DPS each day.

### Who was your favourite teacher at school and why?

My favourite teacher was my Year 6 teacher, Mrs. Lando. She was a very caring, fair and kind teacher who saw the good in every student. She made her students feel valued and gave every child a voice.

### When not at school I like to.....

When not at school I like to exercise - running, tennis and swimming are my favourite sports. I also enjoy photography, reading and the challenge of supporting the Carlton Football Club. I enjoy the outdoors- whether that is hiking, running or looking after my pet chooks. I have been fortunate to travel to the USA and Tonga and look forward to expanding my knowledge of other countries in my future travels.





## Jeanette Papanastasiou – Grade 6

### **When not at school I like to.....**

When not at school I like to spend quality time with my family and friends and most especially with my fiancée, Joseph and my pug, Hugo. We enjoy going to the beach together, spending time in the city, going out for brunch or dinner, going to the footy, going for walks/adventures and when possible - travelling, which we haven't done in a while now. I also love photography and spend a lot of time behind the lens in my spare time.

### **My Family**

I have a big Greek family! I am one of four children to my parents. I have two brothers and a sister. They are all younger than me, which makes me the eldest. Whilst growing up, we did so many things together as we were our own little group and we have some really lovely memories. Our favourite memories are probably all the great times we spent with our Grandparents. Our parents were/are really hardworking, so while they were running their businesses we were fortunate enough to spend plenty of time with our Grandparents. We've done so many things together as a family, such as travelling to Greece, Hong Kong, and around Australia.

### **What makes Doncaster Primary a great school to work at?**

Doncaster Primary is an excellent school with great kids, friendly teachers & staff and a wonderful school community. I really like the environment and atmosphere our school has, everyone is always kind, inclusive and respectful of one another. Teachers at our school are really passionate, supportive and committed to our students learning and progress both academically and emotionally.

### **Who was your favourite teacher at school and why?**

My favourite teacher when I was in Primary School, was my Grade Two Teacher, Mr Tuffin. He really cared for his students and ensured learning involved our interests. He always encouraged us to do our best and provided extra support whenever it was needed. My favourite memory of Mr Tuffin, was when he used to read us Roald Dahl books. The first story he read to us was George's Marvellous Medicine, and still to this day, this book is one of my favourites to read. I have even read this book to some of my own students!





## Martin Spinks - Physical Education Teacher

### Who was your favourite teacher at school and why?

My favourite teacher was Mr Moulding and he was my PE teacher in primary school. Mr Moulding was a really engaging and funny PE and sport teacher. He was great at giving positive feedback. If you made poor choices in class or in the yard he was really strict and you tried your best not to cross the line. Doing the right thing meant he would instil confidence in you that what you thought was impossible became possible and you tried to be the best version of yourself.

If I wasn't a teacher I would like to be a physiotherapist or osteopath. I am fascinated by the human the body and would love to help people improve their well- being and recovery from injuries or ailments. I would also love to learn more about how the human body functions.

When not at school I like to keep fit by riding my bike, swimming or playing tennis. I regularly play the guitar and would love to be able to play more of the songs I enjoy listening to. My youngest daughter and I play Mario Kart on the Nintendo Switch and unfortunately she usually beats me.

### History of employment?

Over the years I have worked in a range of jobs which have been diverse. I have worked at Target in customer service, a lifeguard at swimming local pools, a storeman, a bicycle courier and Mr Whippy ice-cream van driver in Canada, recreation activities in aged care and a masseur.



# Doncaster Primary School – Specialist Teacher



## **Lisa Foster – Cultural Studies**

### **What do you like about Doncaster Primary?**

I love the fact that Doncaster Primary is so multicultural. There are children from all parts of the world who are willing to share their traditions and culture with the rest of the school. The different foods they bring for lunch also smell delicious!

### **When not at school I like to.....**

Travel! I have been to over 30 countries and I love seeing the amazing sights, meeting new people and tasting the delicious food! It's amazing seeing my children's faces light up when they learn a little bit more about the world.

### **If I wasn't a teacher I would like to be.....**

A tour guide. I love to talk and I love to travel so it seems like a good fit!

### **My family**

I have a husband and two children. My oldest girl is called Scarlett and she is 5, and my youngest is Asher who is 2. They are very funny, clever, cheeky children!



# Doncaster Primary School – Specialist Teacher



## Christine Lui – Visual Arts

### **What makes Doncaster Primary a great school to work at?**

Students are amazing achievers, parents are friendly and teachers are a pleasure to work with.

### **When not at school I like to.....**

When not at school I like to go out for nature walks. If I am doing anything artistic I also like to make mugs and plates.

### **If I wasn't a teacher I would like to be.....**

If I wasn't a teacher I would like to be a vet or a zoo keeper.

### **My Family.**

I have two furry pets named Hurley (cat) and Waffles (puppy). They share a very close bond and love each other a lot.



# Doncaster Primary School – Specialist Teacher



## Sally Newton – Tutoring

### **If I wasn't a teacher I would like to be.....**

If I wasn't a teacher I would like to be a nurse at a children's hospital. I love working with children and helping people.

### **Who was your favourite teacher at school and why?**

My favourite teacher at school was my year 5 and 6 teacher. She allowed us to help in the school canteen at lunch time and we got to practice singing at lunch time by taking the stereo outside at lunch time!! We also got to be buddies to the new prep students. She was always kind and encouraging.

### **When not at school I like to.....**

When not at school I like to spend time with my family! I also love to read, watch movies, bake sweet things, go exploring places and spend time outside.

### **What makes Doncaster Primary a great school to work at?**

DPS is a great school to work at because of the wonderful staff, students and families I get to spend my day with.



# Doncaster Primary School – Specialist Teacher



## Debra Waters - Tutoring

### History of Employment at schools

My first school was Glendonald School for Deaf children where the children had a small amount of hearing and learnt to lip read. I was there for three years and taught the teenagers. Next, I went to Manningham Primary School and worked there for two years with the juniors, before settling at Doncaster Primary. I'm still here more than twenty years later and I love it!

### When not at school ...

I like to read, mainly historical novels. I enjoy sewing for fun because it's nice to make something original. I also love learning French because it's a beautiful language.

### Doncaster PS is a great place to work

I've always enjoyed teaching here at Doncaster because it's a happy and friendly place. It has a lovely atmosphere, great staff, and delightful children. Some students have even returned here to teach!

### If I wasn't a teacher

I've always wanted to be a teacher, but if I had to choose something else, it would be a hairdresser. Creating different hairstyles each day would be fun and exciting.



# Doncaster Primary School – Education Support



## Joan Tan-Lawson - Classroom

### What do you like about Doncaster Primary?

I love the wonderful staff I work with at DPS; the beautiful gardens we have; and the fabulous students that fill our classrooms.

### What is your career highlights to date?

I love all the camps I have attended. They were amazing experiences where I had opportunities to get to know the students outside the school environment; participate in exciting activities like horse riding and canoeing; and sit around campfires making dampers and roasting marshmallows.

### When I am not at school I like to.....

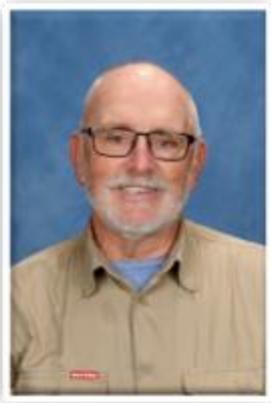
When I am not at school, I like to spend time with my family. I also like to travel to different parts of the world. I enjoy trying new food and experiencing different cultures.

### My family

I have 3 children, two of whom attended and graduated from DPS a few years ago. I also have a playful kitten, who we adopted from a shelter in early 2021.



# Doncaster Primary School – Education Support



## Barry Beechey - Groundsman

### History Of Employment?

I began teaching in country Victoria. I have had two overseas postings, to Penang and the UK. Before being the groundsman at DPS I was Principal of a number of schools with my final Principal position at Yackandandah Primary School. I also taught in two special schools.

### What makes Doncaster Primary a great school to work at?

DPS has great kids, dedicated staff and a friendly supportive community.

### If I wasn't a teacher, I would like to be.....

If I wasn't a teacher/principal I would like to have been a dairy farmer, Landscape gardener or a Chef.

### When not at school I like to.....

When I am not at DPS I like to cook, walk, ride my bike or work in my garden. I love to travel and can't wait to escape once again to explore Australia and beyond.

