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Digital Publishing Consultant, Book Coach, Writer & Teacher

Summary

I started my career as a dedicated primary school teacher, progressed to teaching high school and then working as a University tutor. I have enjoyed each new challenge and experienced the entire education spectrum for a 'big picture' overview. Most recently, I have been employed at Daramalan College for the past two years.

I have embraced technology as it unfolded from the mid-nineties, was always agile in adapting to new developments in technology and continue to do so.

As a "big picture" thinker, I enjoy being innovative and goal-driven, and I love to have unique challenges. After many years of teaching, I left full-time teaching, when I was head-hunted and given the opportunity to take up a management position, teaching adults in social media with a PR company, as well as simultaneously developing my own writing career. I left the corporate world shortly after that, as the PR landscape was not for me, but with several new skills and experience under my belt. I then used these skills to mentor professional writers as a book coach and publisher for a period of nine years. But even over this period, I could never leave my students, whom I deeply cared about, so I kept teaching school students as an English tutor in the evenings and on weekends. I currently still tutor several students from many different schools to maximise their results in English, as I really enjoy this role.

Whilst in private enterprise, I also kept my hand in education on a continuous basis, by working as a contractor, running various writing workshops in both primary and secondary schools, and working as a NAPLAN and AST marker, as well as an educational consultant. Many schools regularly contacted me to run workshops for their early and mid-career teachers.

In the milieu of recent technological development, I think it's a great time to be an educator, and in 2018 I very much wanted to be a part of what I perceived to be an education revolution. So, I returned to teaching at Daramalan College where I felt that I was primed to make a difference to as many students and early career teachers as possible.

With the changing role of teachers as facilitators, in a world where we need to equip students to learn for themselves and for their futures, I believe that we need to infuse them with the love of learning, strong morals and values and the skills they will need to negotiate this complex world we live in, and simultaneously to be able to follow their individual passions.

I have always been a keen advocate for differentiated curriculum and student-centred learning.

I'd like to be instrumental in making the education of students a positive and productive experience and equipping our leaders of the future. We used to say that teaching is a calling and I have always felt called upon.

Relevant Work experience

July 2018 - Mar 2020

English Teacher

Daramalan College

I taught English to five classes of students in years 7, 8, & 9 in 2018. I also ran writers' workshops for the keen writers in the school and in 2019 I taught years 7, 8, 10 and 12, mostly in English, but also in Sociology. This year I have Yrs 7, 8 & 9 and 12.

2011 - 2018

Digital Publishing Consultant Working With Writers

Self-Employed and Employing several staff

After leaving the social media training job, I decided I would like to combine my skills in language, writing, publishing, and social media to help talented newly emerging writers.

It has been a very rewarding experience and I supplemented this with my first "calling", teaching students on the weekends who were very ambitious with their English studies, including many who came from Asian backgrounds. During this time I also presented writing workshops to various schools in the ACT and NSW, both for teachers and for their students.

All these activities were very rewarding. I have always been lucky enough to have enjoyed my working life, as I have always found it meaningful in terms of making a difference to a variety of people.

2010 - 2011

Manager, Digital Education & Training

contentgroup pty ltd

I was headhunted for this position as Manager, Digital Education & Training for a PR company in Canberra. My brief was to develop the RTO side of the company and to design and deliver training courses to the firm's clients (mostly government, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), Not-For-Profits (NFPs) and political parties), with a view to enabling them to operate their own social media, once they had been set up properly. I had to then create a strategy to make it work for them in achieving their goals. It was in the very early days of social media.

I was also given the role of establishing their RTO department.

The social media courses I delivered there were for an eclectic range of clients. At the very highest end, it included the Attorney General's Department (who were setting up their National Emergency Response Centre in the event of a national disaster); Air Services Australia (who were also interested in training for disaster management); and the ACT government (for a range of training requirements including political parties wanting to use social media for an upcoming election at that time). These were all clients of the firm.

In the NGO space I trained an international delegation of UN Women interested in using social media to promote their causes and connect globally, as well as many other charities. I enjoyed these the most. Finally, we trained CEOs so that their organisations (their communications sectors in particular), could get the permission from the top-down for mass training of their staff, as social media grew in importance very quickly at that time.

I also created an online learning portal for them, as the demand was growing for more and more training, and we could not cope with the demand in our face-to-face classrooms.

I left the company at a time of great change and having fulfilled my brief, I thought it was time I became a contractor as I wanted to work more within the arts sector (language and writing particularly interested me at the time especially in the education sector), so I set myself up as a self-employed consultant and ended up hiring and managing 16 staff.

2005 - 2009

HOD Psychology & AST Co-Ordinator

Canberra Institute of Technology - Vocational College

I was employed as a teacher in the Vocational College, catering to students who had left school early and now wanted to gain qualifications toward university entry through the Year 12 Certificate.

I worked part-time for for most of these years, except for one year, when I took up a full-time contract for that year.

My teaching subjects were English, psychology, and communications. I was also fortunate enough to be appointed the AST and Psychology Coordinator for that year of full-time engagement.

I thoroughly enjoyed this position, especially in terms of learning how to operate Moodle, an online learning platform (new at that time), and since adopted by many tertiary institutions.

I was very interested in the blended learning mode of teaching. It seemed very promising to me at the time. I found I could offer my students a very enriched learning experience.

2005 - 2018

Teacher/Tutor

Canberra Writing School

I have been teaching/tutoring privately for the past 14 years, coaching students from ACT schools in English, English as a Second Language, and writing/communication skills. Many of my students are from non-English speaking backgrounds. This is a very part-time activity and sporadic, depending on my other workloads. I have run holiday courses in January for the Canberra Writing School, where I created online classes for adults in Creative Writing and a Basic English Grammar Course up until 2016. Both were popular with teachers.

2006 - 2007

Tutor in the Undergraduate Teaching Degree

Catholic University ACT

Whilst I was working as a full-time teacher at St Francis Xavier College, I was employed as a tutor for post-graduate students who were training to be English teachers. It was a very enjoyable experience and a good source to find exceptional new teachers. One of my students soon became a Head of Department in just a few short years after I had left. (That was most heartwarming.) I do enjoy a mentoring role for the next generation of teachers.

2004 - 2009

Secondary Teacher

St Francis Xavier College ACT

This was my final position as a secondary teacher in ACT schools, teaching mostly in the senior years as an English/Psychology/Sociology/RE teacher. This was a wonderful job and I received much satisfaction within my teaching in this school, as the community spirit was high and the academic rigours were also most rewarding and I really enjoyed the religious education that was the basis for academic life. Making a difference to so many young people is one of the finest experiences you can have as a teacher. It is truly a "calling" and I felt that very much in this Catholic educational environment.

2003 - 2004

Co-Ordinator & Senior Secondary Teacher in the Intensive English Program -

Macarthur Anglican School

I was hired specifically to teach Bahasa Indonesia initially, and what was then known as English as a Second Language (ESL). I was given the opportunity to coordinate the Intensive English (12-week) program, which involved taking students from all over the world (predominantly Asia), and preparing them for entry to the regular school program. Many had very weak English skills and the job was a great challenge. Nevertheless it was also most rewarding, as we managed to introduce them to Australian language, culture, and christian principles, prepare them for the rigorous senior high school programs, including the Cambridge English examinations.

2000 - 2003

Indonesian, French & German Teacher

Oxley College in Bowral

This was a most rewarding experience which truly honed my teaching skills early in my career. I went from a small fish in a big pond at Lyneham High School to a small, but rigorous and highly spiritual educational setting, offered to students in a school where the Headmaster, Mr David Wright, was a most inspirational leader and mentor.

2000 - 2000

Indonesian, French & ESL Teacher

Lyneham High School

I spent 2000 in two schools on returning from Christmas Island - firstly, I spent six months at Narrabundah Primary School, but really wanted to teach foreign languages, which were not offered in primary education at that time, so with the help of my Principal I managed to transfer to Lyneham High School, where I was able to cut my teeth in a secondary school setting. I found it a steep learning curve, but very beneficial. We moved to the Southern Highlands from Canberra and I applied and was appointed to Oxley College, which I found to be a sharp contrast.

1999 - 2000

Primary School Teacher

Narrabundah Primary School

From Christmas Island I was appointed to Narrabundah Primary School which was a huge challenge after starting my career at Christmas Island Area School. But I learnt much in a community with many indigenous students and others from a low socio-economic background. My teaching skills were well developed at this school, particularly with a great mentor in Jan Walsh, the then Principal, who helped me to transfer to high school, in order to have a languages focus in my teaching.

1988 - 1989

English as a Second Language Specialist Teacher

Christmas Island Area School

This was a very rewarding two-year contract at the beginning of my teaching career. Most of the students were of Asian background and we were teaching the ACT curriculum at the time. It was a time when I studied for my Graduate Diploma in TESOL, which informed my teaching and I found very rewarding in many aspects. I have some of my warmest teaching memories from this early teaching experience.

Education

2008 - 2009

Master of Creative Writing

University of Canberra

This was a very interesting course, delivered online. It really was an experience to be on the receiving end (as a student) of an online learning course. I have developed and designed online courses myself for several years and it informed me more on good online course design practice, in line with enhancing the student experience.

2004 - 2004

Cert IV Workplace & Assessment Training

JCE Positive Outcomes RTO

Mandatory requirement to teach in the VET sector. (I needed this with my work at CIT. I did the course in 2005 originally, then upgraded in 2012.)

1989 - 1991

Grad Dip TESOL

University of South Australia

I studied through this TESOL course while I was teaching on Christmas Island, as 99% of my students there were from an Asian background and I wanted to help them as much as I could and so I felt that I needed to be well equipped to do so. As it turned out, it has helped me through many teaching experiences since.

1986 - 1988

Diploma of Teaching

University of Canberra

This was my first educational qualification at the beginning of my teaching career. I was initially a primary school teacher, but developed a keen interest in languages, TESOL and English literature and writing skills in subsequent years.

1978 - 1988

BA Arts (Languages)

University of Sydney & Australian National University

I commenced the first two years of this course at Sydney University, and then we moved to Canberra, so I continued it through the Australian National University on a part-time basis.

I thoroughly enjoy studying foreign languages and cultures and I have had experience teaching German, French, Bahasa Indonesia and English as a Foreign Language (what was then called Languages Other Than English - LOTE).

I find that the study of foreign languages teaches you more about your own language and I felt that these studies helped me to understand English and later, with my teaching of English literature and creative writing. I also used the knowledge gained from my Grad Dip TESOL when I did some extensive teaching in this field, and still do.

Skills

Book Selling

I owned a bookshop in Manuka for a short time (18 months), which I really enjoyed, but we sold it when we thought eBooks might kill traditional bookshops. (As it turns out, we were wrong!) But I gained valuable

Teaching

I have a broad range of experience teaching students of many ages and stages. I began teaching in primary school, then moved to secondary to specialise in foreign languages and ESL at the time, which then extended to English Literature and psychology and sociology. I have taught at the tertiary level as well as, as a mentor/tutor for English teachers in training in the post-graduate

experience selling to the public and to the school sector, in particular. Building relationships with clients was the most rewarding part of the job as well as gaining a rich knowledge of literature

Social Media

I have been keen on social media since its inception, and can see the benefits of blended learning and using online tools to enhance teaching programs. As most students who are young, use social media prolifically, it seems to make sense that their education should not be a disconnect from that online world. I have taught social media and would say that my knowledge and experience is significant enough to be able to use it as part of my pedagogy.

Writing & Publishing

I am a writer and have self-published many resources for teachers, as well as having written materials for traditional publishers. I wrote a chapter of an English textbook for Cambridge International Press in 2009/10, which addressed the new National Curriculum at that time. I am currently writing a textbook for my private students aimed at succeeding in senior English.

program at the Australian Catholic University. I have great rapport with my students and that has been the springboard from which I have managed to give them strong educational experiences and visibly improve their learning outcomes.

Editing

I have worked as a professional editor for many years and enjoy editing other people's work. This extends to marking essays and theses - which are thoroughly enjoyable. I also use these skills when marking NAPLAN, and other criterion referenced marking that I have done over many years now.

Course Writing

I have written online courses for the Canberra Writing School on Basic English Grammar and Creative Writing, plus an Elite Young Writers' Program. I am equally comfortable creating courses for online and in traditional publications. I thoroughly enjoy the creativity of developing new courses. I was a co-writer for a Board of Senior Studies Psychology course for Canberra Secondary Colleges, as well as being a team member on the HSC Writing committee many years ago.

Educational Marking Experience

2003 - 2019

NAPLAN & ACTAP Marking

ACT Department of Education & Training

I have been a marker for NAPLAN every year since its inception and before that, for ACTAP, which was its predecessor. Thoroughly enjoyable each year, it gives me an indication of the writing skills of students broadly speaking in Australia, as well as the newly engaged teachers beginning their careers.

Educational Examination Writing

1996 - 1997

HSC Examination Committee Team Writer

NSW Board of Studies

I marked the HSC for several years but for two years I was actually on the writing team to write the HSC examination papers. This was a most rewarding activity and gave me the impetus to start writing course materials late in my career.