

2010 SESSIONAL AWARD RECIPIENT, JCU FLBCA

JCU Sessional Teachers participate in a range of teaching roles and thus are oftentimes at the very forefront of student engagement, hence their ability to influence student learning in powerful ways. Sessionals contribute meaningfully to the learning and teaching community and their genuine interest in facilitating student learning promotes high quality student learning experiences as is evident in SFS.

The casual teaching experience encompasses but is not limited to preparing for and presenting tutorials and/or workshops; lectures; mentoring and group facilitation; designing teaching materials; external/online teaching and marking. In 2010, JCU peers and colleagues nominated Mr Robin Gauld for the JCU FLBCA Sessional Award that recognizes outstanding contributions to Student Learning.

TLD's Best Practice Project brings you:

AWARD WINNING ATTRIBUTES OF SESSIONAL **ROBIN GAULD**

IN THIS ACCOUNT, THE FIRST TIME SESSIONAL AWARD RECIPIENT REFLECTS ON THE CASUAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE FORMALLY ACKNOWLEDGED FOR HIS POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO STUDENT LEARNING.

The award was based largely on a subject I teach which is delivered 100% online and I have tried to make this challenging experience for students and myself as rich and rewarding as possible. I must say that managing a subject like this is considerably more challenging in some ways than is direct face to face classroom teaching. The Sessional Award has been very satisfying as I put a lot into my teaching.

Since joining JCU I have completed my graduate certificate in education, tertiary teaching. I am very glad I did that course because I found it very interesting and in fact am now a true believer in teaching staff having this basic teaching qualification. I find it difficult to believe that you can be a competent teacher without, at least some teacher training. It is a very valuable thing.



'Supported, compassionate and challenging are the words I would use to describe my teaching style'.

Robin Gauld, School of Creative Arts

I have been a sessional teacher with JCU since about 2003. My research interests revolve around the teaching of photography. I did my graduate diploma of research methods studying problem-based learning as it could be used to teach photography. Since joining JCU I have completed my graduate certificate in education, tertiary teaching.

For me, the upside of sessional teaching is that it supports my photography income and I enjoy my teaching experiences and involvement with the University. The downside is the limitations to be part of the day to day University teaching experience. In this respect, Sessionals are kind of on the periphery of the teaching organization.

I am not aware that the award has changed anything for me in the past year, but I have been asked to apply for a Fellowship. Whilst not really owning the subject that one teaches can lead to certain frustrations, in my experience there has always been support and I feel that I can ask for help, guidance or resources if needed.

I am currently two-thirds of the way through a Ph.D. and this is again looking at the alignment of the teaching of photography and the contemporary needs of the industry.