Why teach on Mornington Island?
Kate: The island is a great experience both professionally and personally, great development in
your teaching career as well as learning from the students and the family's culture, language.

Reyne: I'd always wanted to work with young indigenous kids. I'd always wanted to experience community work as a teacher. It is, I believe some of the most fulfilling and important work in education that you can be doing in remote communities like Mornington Island.

Max: And also 'cause I just wanted more of an adventure. So you're somewhere completely different where I'm really out of my comfort zone, where I can grow as a professional and as a person.

Steph: So the kids here have so much love to give. It just brings joy every time I come to school 'cause I know at least one or two kids will give me the biggest hug and the biggest smile, so yeah.

Reyne - Isolation is one of the main challenges that you'll face on Mornington Island, being one of the most remote communities in the country. Putting yourself out and immersing yourself in community, spending time with students at school, but also after school, really getting to know your colleagues.

Max: So at first, I was feeling a little bit isolated but that soon passed. There's a really great
community here of teachers and we all band together and make sure everyone
feels included. We all invite each other into our houses and cook meals and we've really made a strong community. Also getting to know the local people. Every time I walk to the shop, I'm always greeted as Mr. Max. I just always feel like I'm wanted and people are happy to see me.

Georgie: So, you make a lot of great friends in small communities because you're pretty close. You live with who you work with, which sometimes has it challenges but often, you create
lifelong friendships.

Steph: Barge day is every Wednesday. It's probably the most exciting day of the week 'cause that's when all of our online shopping comes and some of our food deliveries. Online shopping is so easy here, a bit too easy. You can definitely get shipping from a lot of the big retailers.

Georgie: So, the department has supported me to live on Mornington Island by providing a fantastic house. Ours is a two-bedroom, lovely little place on its own block. We have plenty of
storage with two garages.

Max: My experience is you just have to immerse yourself in the culture. So both the traditional culture and the contemporary culture, like kids here, they love hip hop and R&B.

Reyne: The relationships are key. Building them with the students and colleagues and the community has been yeah, a very enriching experience. Learning traditional ways that have been happening for thousands of years, they're experiences that I'll cherish and have for the rest of my life. That has definitely been a highlight of working and living in such a culturally rich environment like Mornington Island.

Steph: I try to link all my learning back to traditional indigenous culture here on Mornington Island by linking to the resources, so that kids find it easier to relate and understand what I'm talking about.

Kate: It's really great in terms of where it can lead you to in the future, like myself, going into the Head of Department role, it could also lead you into research about indigenous students, as well as it's just a great avenue to build your teaching skills and then take that to the next school that you go to.

Max: The main piece of advice I would give you is just try new things. Like I've tried fishing, I've never fished a day in my life, tried cultural dancing, and it's just all part of the experience. The more you do, the more value you'll get out of the experience.

Georgie: Give it a go. I think if you are someone that likes a challenge and open-minded and
wanting to grow, this is the perfect place to do that. I think having great resilience is something that would benefit you but really the rewards outweigh the challenges.

Steph: My best advice for anyone wanting to come and teach here on Mornington Island is definitely if you are after a challenge, this is the place for you.

Reyne: Give it everything you've got, but also enjoy living there, enjoy the experiences, 'cause I guarantee you'll leave with lifelong memories.

Kate: The advice I'd give to people that are interested in coming remote, particularly to Mornington Island, is just give it a crack. Like it's the best experience that I've had and everyone I talk to loves it here.