La Trobe University Mildura: Haydn

There’s a few factors that make the Mildura campus a great place to study. I think firstly we have smaller numbers so as a lecturer I’m able to devote a lot more time to students which I don’t think students get at metropolitan campuses or even the larger regional campuses. You can come in and be part of a group of 30 rather than a group of 600. You’ve got equal access to resources, given the library here and a lot of the electronic facilitation of books and so forth and resources.

I think what I enjoy most about teaching at the campus, is related to the earlier question about why it’s a good place to study. We’ve got an intimate band of students here and you get to know students really quite well and for teaching purposes that’s really important because you can see where students are really struggling or where they might need assistance or where they might need encouragement or help and conversely where students are really succeeding. You can actually take great pride in your work when students improve or if students are making the most of their opportunities.

Whilst in some ways we are quite disconnected from other campuses, especially Melbourne, in some ways we are intimately linked in with Melbourne. I think that whole notion of collegiality in teaching, if you can connect with your colleagues in Melbourne is great as well. So you get the benefits of teaching to smaller classes where I think your pedagogy comes out and it’s actually very good for students and teacher alike. But you also can be connected into a broader universe of colleagues. So I now have in my new job and in my previous job, connections with people from Bendigo and Bundoora which have been excellent in terms of my teaching and also for research. So you do feel part of the broader whole whilst you can have the advantages of the smaller campus.