La Trobe University Mildura: Dennis

My name’s Dennis Mitchell. I’m the principal currently at Mildura Primary School. I’ve been the principal there for now 3 years. I studied here at La Trobe University Mildura and it gave me so much for my career.

The path to get where I am right now, as the principal at Mildura Primary School, has probably been a little bit different to what a normal university student take to become a professional and then a principal of a school. I set out to become a teacher at the age of 25, thanks largely to some great support from two key people that currently work here at La Trobe Mildura. So I became a teacher probably later than what people would normal become and then I took on a teaching role back home here in my home town of Mildura and then quite early in my career as a teacher I then took on a principal-ship at Mildura Primary School.

I’ve got such good memories of being at university here. Again, I did start late as a student. But to be able to get together with such like minded people, talk about the study that we were doing, talk about being involved with students to become teachers was outstanding. To have conversations with people here on campus as mentors was amazing and look being around people to study together and be a close quite knit first year group and then move on to be a group that graduated together was really, really solid and quite powerful for me.

The advice I would give to any future student would be, and my example is probably a good one, and that is that it’s probably never too late to find your pathway to the career that you want to do and to really have a go at the thing that you truly love doing. For me, I found what I love to do. So in terms of becoming a student, I mean really think about what you want to do and if La Trobe offers that for you, I think that’s amazing. For me, it was about being in my home town and being quite accessible. Originally it wasn’t the entire time here in Mildura, it had to be away a little bit, but now that it is here, and particularly the education course, which is fantastic. I think you can really achieve what you want to do for your career and set out to achieve a career objective in terms of your study.