It’s been a dream of mine since I was fifteen to work with young children. I’ve got a big family, heaps of cousins. So it seemed natural that I would become a teacher. I’m very much a people person, always a social butterfly. It certainly made Year twelve challenging at times, but I stayed focused and got there. Nothing was going to stop me. I was so excited when I got into Uni, I was the first person in my family to do it. My parents were so proud, so was I for that matter.

I went straight from University to a job teaching primary school kids. I love it. Now that I’m here I want to give kids the opportunity to dream. To explore their ideas and help them believe that anything is possible. I believe that every child has talent; everyone has the ability to achieve something in their life. Whether they be a crossword genius or a rocket scientist, it doesn’t really matter. It may be hidden, but it’s there, it’s my job to help them realise it.

One day I’ll start a teaching foundation for socially disadvantaged children in regional areas. Being from a small country town it’s close to my heart. I want to make a difference with kids who need it most. For me it’s all about seeing that spark in a kid’s eye, that moment when they realise ‘I can do this’.

It’s the reason I became a teacher.

My name is Rebecca McLean. I went to La Trobe. A dream will always be a dream if you don’t do anything about it.