mater

Celebrating
International Women's Day

International Women's Day is...

A day to recognise and celebrate all the things that being a woman means—strength, resilience and compassion. It represents the value women bring to this world and that the world is a better place because of all of our differences.

International Women's Day is also an opportunity to recognise that there is still work to do in gender equality and in some countries, women are still fighting to be allowed the basics like education.

Embodying Mater mission and values

My approach to life is to lead and inspire by example. Strength and compassion can coexist together and as a leader, I care for the individual at the same time as striving for excellence and expecting standards to be met so that our work truly makes a difference. I hope younger girls can see a world where they are treated no differently to the boys in their communities.

I have had the opportunity to give back to my high school community at St Patrick's College Townsville and share my own story to demonstrate that they too can achieve the things that they wish to in their lives.

Female influences who have helped shape my life

My mother always told me that I could do anything and be anything that I wanted to be. Growing up with three brothers, she never treated me any differently.

A group of strong women are my school friends from my time at Saint Patrick's College in Townsville and our friendship still continues more than 20 years on. We are each other's biggest cheerleaders and support crew!

From a professional perspective, Donna Bonney has been an amazing female influence. She not only leads by example but she has been also a great advocate for my professional growth and has encouraged me to take on challenges that I didn't necessarily believe I could handle. Having leaders believe in you makes a huge difference.

Words of wisdom

Say yes to every opportunity!
It's kind of fun to do the impossible.

Stephanie Barwick
Director Programs and Partnerships
Mater Education