



JENNIFER WARREN

Year 12—2000

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Where Are They Now?

Born in Moree, Jennifer grew up in Port Macquarie and Brisbane before finishing her secondary schooling in Wee Waa. Jennifer Warren (nee Henry) is a most inspiring person. Born with normal hearing, it was by age two that her profound hearing loss was discovered. Jennifer began using hearing aids from this point on and was able to go to a normal school and graduate from university. Her lip reading ability came naturally and was key to helping her get through school and university. One month ago Jennifer had cochlear implant surgery. Now she is able to hear sounds that she has never heard before and she says in some ways she feels like her life and career has only really just started.



What were your favourite subjects?

“Maths and physics.”

Best memories of Wee Waa High?

“The smaller classes were a lot of fun and also there was a lot of support from the teachers. I made many friends which I still have contact with today.”

While at high school, what career direction did you think you would head in?

“I was really clear that I wanted to pursue Nursing.”

Can you tell us about your first few years after finishing high school?

“I completed my Bachelor of Nursing at University of New England (Armidale) in 2004, before going on to work at Wee Waa Hospital and at the Community Health Centre. While there I started doing work experience with the Nurse Audiometrist at Narrabri Community Health Centre every Tuesday. It was while I was doing this that I went onto complete my Nurse Audiometry course through Sydney TAFE and gained a Distinction. From there I worked as a Nurse Audiometrist at Wee Waa Community Health for 1.5 years, before accepting a position as a newborn hearing screener at Mater Mothers in 2007.”

What are you doing now?

“I’m now a Clinical Nurse and Coordinator of the Healthy Hearing Program at Mater Mothers Hospital in South Brisbane.

I Manage the Healthy Hearing Program which involves managing a team of 10 Hearing Screeners who screen over 10,000 newborn babies per year. I deliver training, rostering and tracking babies that need screening. I also do outpatient screenings.”

What do you love about what you do?

“I love what I do because it’s rewarding, every day is different and you learn so much about people from all walks of life. Also I get to see and hold lots of beautiful babies.”

Wee Wawa High School, Purcell Avenue, NSW 2388

www.weewaa-h.schools.nsw.gov.au



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What do you think is the secret to success in life and work?

“It is about having a great deal of determination and an excellent work ethic. These two things will take you a long way.”

Do you have a life motto?

“No matter how hard it gets, never ever give up!”

Article written in 2016

