PORTLAND Secondary College has welcomed two more Teach for Australia (TFA) teachers, Chris Weinberg and Tom Cain.

TFA gives individuals with university degrees the opportunity to become teachers and while Mr Cain has been working for the past three-and-a-half years since graduating, Mr Weinberg comes straight from the University of Melbourne.

Mr Weinberg finished four years of study on a Bachelor of Commerce with Honours last year while also completing the six-week TFA course. He said the idea to change the direction of his life came during the second half of his four-year course.

“I wanted to do something with meaning and impact after finishing university,” Mr Weinberg said.

“The effort teachers make had an effect on me during school. That left an impression and inspired me to do the same myself. I definitely see myself doing it long term.”

Mr Weinberg said the best part of starting at PSC was meeting the group of dedicated teachers all working for to develop children’s education and the community work.

“Being in TFA and going to a regional area allows you to develop a connection with students, families and the local community,” he said.

Mr Weinberg is teaching maths and economics to Years 7 to 11.

Mr Cain said, for him, one of the benefits of working in Portland was the waves.

“It was at a time I was looking for something different so it was timed really well,” Mr Cain said.

Both Mr Cain and Mr Weinberg completed a six-week course at the University of Melbourne of intensive teaching and leadership training before coming to PSC.

They were also introduced to their PSC TFA predecessors, Adam Ross and Liam McNaughton, who shifted to metropolitan schools at the end of 2013.

“TFA are really good at making sure you know exactly what you’re getting into and helping you prepare,” Mr Weinberg said.

Mr Cain arrives at PSC with a Bachelor of Commerce and Art from Monash University. After completing his degree Mr Cain spent two years in the automotive industry and one and a half in energy before becoming involved with TFA.

“I’ve had a couple of interesting jobs but neither was really fulfilling,” he said.

“I decided I owed it to myself to get a career I wanted and I thought teaching would be that.”

He will be teaching humanities and history to Years 7 to 11.

Mr Cain said, for him, one of the benefits of working in Portland was the waves.

“I’m a bit of a surfer and I’m looking forward to getting into that,” he said.

Mr Cain first heard of TFA through a group he was volunteering with which taught English to Sudanese immigrants. Through the group, Mr Cain met and got into a discussion with a TFA representative.

“This year Portland Secondary College welcomes Belinda Martyn (teaching Certificate 2 Desktop Publishing to the staff). Picture: ELLY HATELEY 140129eh07

CHRIS Weinberg and Tom Cain are enjoying their first teaching experience, having joined the staff at Portland Secondary College this year as Teach for Australia teachers. Picture: ELLY HATELEY 140129eh06