

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

ALLANNAH WOOD CLASS OF 2008

When did you attend Lowanna College?

I attended Lowanna College from 2003 to 2008.

What are your memories of Lowanna College?

I have wonderful memories of my time at Lowanna College. My school highlights include;

- Participating in the school musicals. Playing the role of Lois Lane in a Superman parody in Year 12 was an amazing experience.
- Attending school camps, going on excursions and competing in interschool sports. The Tasmania Camp was my favourite.
- Being able to select VCE Biology and Health and Human Development at Year 10. These subjects fuelled my curiosity and ignited my passion to work in the medical field.

How do you think your experiences at Lowanna College helped you become the person you are today?

I was very fortunate to have wonderful teachers and an amazing friendship group who encouraged, supported and believed in me. Those dedicated teachers who shared their passion for their subjects and who gave up their time to extend my knowledge will always be remembered.

My experiences at Lowanna encouraged me to be dedicated to my study and work hard, which helped me achieve the grades I needed to be accepted into University.



Was there anyone at Lowanna College who had a positive impact and upon reflection, influenced you to follow the path you have chosen?

I can think of several teachers I had whilst in high school that made a real impact on me and who I am today. I loved Science and was lucky enough to have two very dedicated teachers; Ms. Young and Mr. Lakeman, who helped me develop an interest in Chemistry and Biology. Ms. Paynter, my Year 7 and 8 Humanities teacher, made the transition from Primary School to Secondary School so much easier with her warm and welcoming personality and passion for teaching. And Ms.

Pickett, my Specialist Maths teacher, who was extremely patient with me while I tackled Specialist Maths.

What did you do after leaving Lowanna College, and where are you now?

After leaving Secondary School I received an offer to complete a Bachelor of Nursing/ Bachelor of Emergency Health (Paramedics) at Monash University, Peninsula Campus in Frankston. I moved out of home and completed 4 years at University.

On completion of my degrees I spent 2 and a half years as an Emergency Nurse at Monash Medical Centre in Clayton, which is currently



one of the biggest Neuro and Cardiac specialist hospitals supplying Melbourne and the Eastern suburbs. During that time, I completed a Graduate year as well as a Transition to Specialty Program which allowed me to work in the Emergency Department in the higher acuity areas such as Triage and Resuscitation.

Not wanting to miss out on experiencing Paramedics as an alternative career option, I then applied to Ambulance Victoria and got a job on the Mornington Peninsula. I am now starting my 4th year as a Paramedic and am being endorsed to work as a Clinical Instructor. This means I work with Graduates to support them in the job as they transition from University students into qualified Ambulance Paramedics. I am incredibly proud of my job and love helping people.



What are your greatest accomplishments (list any awards, achievements, defining moments etc.)?

Both of my jobs are unbelievably rewarding. I care for people at their most vulnerable when they are sick or injured, providing medical assistance and emotional support. Some of my achievements throughout my career include completion of specialised training. At the hospital I did further training and study so that I could care for the high acuity patients. On road I have completed an Aquatic Response Training program which allows me to assist and care for patients that are injured or unwell on boats or other sea vessels, and I am currently transitioning to a Clinical Instructor position to work in a leadership role with students and graduates.



I am also very proud to have received commendations for difficult jobs that I have attended over the years. It is extremely satisfying to get positive feedback from the people we look after and to hear that they are recovering well.

Outside of work I have gone on some amazing overseas holidays; Japan, America, Indonesia and parts of Europe. My partner and I have bought a house in Mt Eliza and we are getting married at the end of the year. We also have a beautiful Labrador called Ralph.

What advice would you like to give any of our current Lowanna College students?

Use Secondary College as an opportunity to learn and try new things. Take every opportunity offered to you. My time at Lowanna exposed me to subjects and experiences I had previously been uninterested in, resulting in my amazing career. I truly believe that if you are willing to put in the effort and put yourself out there that you can accomplish incredible things in your life and it starts in Secondary School. Look at failures as merely setbacks, learn from them and move on.