

LOWANNA GRADUATES

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

JESS CAMERON CLASS OF 2008

When did you attend Lowanna College?

I began Year 7 in 2003 and I graduated Year 12 in 2008..

What were your memories of Lowanna College?

I remember Lowanna as family to me. Our year level was, for the most part, a tight-knit group of teenagers. The teachers were approachable, down-to-earth, and by the time we got to Year 11-12 they had become like friends to us... like older friends though, who would tell us off. Some of my fondest life memories are actually from Lowanna and high school, mainly because we put a lot of effort in to making it a great time. We organised activities, fundraisers, sports, camps, all of which would give us the time to connect with each other. High school always has its challenges, no matter what school it is, but the benefit of being in a smaller town and in a smaller school was the

ability to get to know each other. When you know each other well you care a little bit more.

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

Lowanna gave me a lot of opportunities to lead, and to grow in to myself. As a student, it probably wasn't that easy for teachers to let me be myself... as "myself" was loud and obnoxious. Reflecting now on my experiences I recognise how my teachers allowed my personality to come through and because of that I had the ability to develop my attributes in a more constructive way, and in a way that would benefit my classmates. I was able to fumble my way to figuring out who I was.

When I was elected School Captain I spent even more time with teachers and student bodies. I believe being involved in the behind the scenes process of education does a lot



in the way of helping teenagers understand the effort that goes in to their development. I grew more respect for my teachers as a result, which helped me be a better student. In the years after school I've had many opportunities to train and teach youth and have always remembered to nurture the kids that are disruptive; they are difficult but probably have some of the greatest potential to lead if guided correctly. Thanks Lowanna for not blowing out my light.

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

Growing up in Moe was a great time for me. I love the small town vibe. Everyone knows each other, people look out for each other, I could roam free and feel safe - I loved so much about it. But I was also too big for my shoes and when I finished school I left to

wander the World. I moved to Queensland to try out the whole "living out of home and supporting myself as an independent woman" gig - I survived it. I then travelled Europe for 6 months on my own and immersed myself in other cultures. - I didn't get "taken". I moved to New Zealand for 18 months to serve a full-time mission for my Church - this was one of the hardest and growth-promoting experiences of my life. Next, I moved to Alice Springs where I worked with children in care who were removed from their unsafe environments. I always made my way back to Victoria in between my adventures; I like to ground myself by going back to my roots every now and then. Now I live permanently in Queensland and have finally settled in to my passion as a Mindset & Transformation Coach and Speaker. I married a man who also has big ambitions and allows me to soar. You could say I have "nested"... for a time.



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

I'd prefer not to list my accomplishments because others don't need to compare themselves to my journey. Instead I'd prefer to encourage others to consider what it is that they want out of their life, for themselves and for no one else. When they can do that they will truly find success; because success is nothing more than the realisation of a dream. One of the things I am most proud of in my life is that I have chosen to do just that. I chose not to walk down a well-worn path but to do some bush-bashing and find my own trail. It's been a rocky and prickly path at times but it has been my own, and I have loved it so far. I've achieved many of my personal goals and am still running after many others. I intend to get to the end of my life completely spent with nothing left in the tank.

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

When you grow up in Moe, or in any small town, you can fall in to the trap of thinking small. That is a mistake. Small towns are great training grounds for your initiation in to the World. You generally learn to appreciate more, and value the smaller but important things in life. You are generally more grounded and considerate of others. Big cities usually promote the "rat-race" lifestyle where everyone is out for themselves. So be grateful for your upbringing; strong roots make a strong tree. But remember not to think small and not to be small just because you live in a small town. Location doesn't determine your ability or the size of your dreams. Take your training and go out to experience the rest the world has to offer. You'll soon learn that you are the only one holding you back.



Anything else you'd like to include?

Life is what you make of it. School is what you make of it. Home is what you make of it. YOU are what you make of yourself! Be proactive and not reactive – the only thing you can choose in life is your response to what happens in it. The only way to live an unfulfilled life is to accept one. Go be great.

