

LOWANNA GRADUATES

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

NAOMI SECCOMBE CLASS OF 2008

When did you attend Lowanna College?

I moved to Moe halfway through Year 7 and I finished Year 11 in 2007.

What were your memories of Lowanna College?

I enjoyed the social aspect of school, but I remember some great committed teachers who, looking back, really did influence where I am today and encourage me to strive for more. Probably my best memory of Lowanna College was my Year 10 Business Management class where, with a friend, we organised a large music concert featuring school-based and outside bands. We collaborated with local Primary Schools to attend, as well as providing a lunchtime concert for Lowanna students and an evening concert for the public. The theory and business side of organising this concert was a huge eye-opener and it was a learning curve that contributed to my future in business.

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

I have always had a strong work ethic, but I feel the careers guidance and opportunities provided by my education at Lowanna Colleges certainly contributed to the person I am and the way I now do business.

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

Year 11 was a tough year for me. Mr. McKenzie had a lot of influence in my life at that time, as both the Senior School Leader and my Business Management teacher. We chatted at great length about my future and I do think he influenced my decision to finish Year 11, continue on to a Traineeship and start my working life.



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

In 2008, immediately after finishing Year 11, I started an Administration Traineeship with a recruitment company in Traralgon. Before the age of 18, I became a Recruitment Consultant who interviewed and employed over 150 workers for various blue-collar industries.

In 2010, I transferred to a role within the same company in Dandenong and continued working as a HR/Business Development Manager in the Healthcare sector, employing

over 200 nurses and professional healthcare personnel all over Melbourne and Victoria.

In 2012, I moved home to Moe and continued working as a Recruitment Consultant. It was at this time I began with Photography in my spare time.

Whilst on maternity leave from my recruitment position in 2015, I decided to undertake further education in Photography and I completed a Certificate IV in Photo Imaging at Sale GippsTAFE. I felt like this was the turning point for me to move from a



'hobby' to a 'photography business'. Before I knew it, I was taking on more and more clients and I found myself working 7 days and 7 nights, all while looking after my baby!

With almost 10 years experience in business, I was confident I could run my own and in 2016, I decided to quit my full-time job and open my own Photography business. To this day, I am still managing this Photography business, specialising in birth, maternity, newborn, babies and family photos. I am also part of an organisation called 'Heartfelt', a group of volunteering photographers who take images of families with stillborn babies. I am booked out months in advance and have just recently finished building a custom studio. I absolutely love what I do and feel that my secondary education at Lowanna, as well as additional training, hard work and determination, helped me get to where I am today.

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

- 2008 Certificate IV Business Administration
- 2009 Double Diploma in Human Resources and Business Management
- 2011 Advanced Business and Recruitment Skills Qualification
- 2014 Baby #1 (Violet)
- 2015 Certificate IV in Photo Imaging Awarded Most Consistent and Conscientious Student
- 2016 Australian Professional Photographer Association Member
- 2017 Baby #2 (Arlo)
- 2018 Re-opened my Photography business in a brand new, purpose-built studio



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

I believe education is an important part of life, and in order to better yourself, you need to work hard to get to where you want to be. I would encourage anyone completing their secondary education to not let your dreams, hopes and goals be squashed by shallow minded thinking. The sky really is the limit - you just have to break it down into smaller steps so that your journey does not seem so daunting.

