

LOWANNA GRADUATES

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

TOM HUTTON CLASS OF 2007

When did you attend Lowanna College?

I attended Lowanna College from Year 7 to 12, completing my VCE in 2007.

What are your memories of Lowanna College?

My memories are mainly ones of socialising and having a good time with mates, especially in the latter stages of high school when things started getting a bit tense for some. The freedom and flexibility given to VCE students made it very bearable and, at times, a fun process. I definitely wasn't the model student and, to be honest, had more fun than I probably should have but I never got too far out of line and I made sure I switched on when I had to.

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

The school has a very diverse group of students and it gives you a perspective of other nationalities, upbringings, cultures, pastimes and different ways of life. I think being in that environment where everybody is very different, and given the freedom to be their own kind of different, sets you up to deal with many of the variables thrown at you in the real world and leaves you well equipped to approach most social situations with confidence.

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

It's hard to pinpoint any select people, but I do feel as though the freedom (as mentioned above) to be yourself was a big factor in me pursuing what I have. The teachers and staff aren't trying to mould everyone into a scientist or a mathematician if that's not what the student desires. So with me being more outgoing and hands-on, it was great to have really well run programs that suited me and my aspirations down to ground. No program or subject is looked down on as being less valuable or worthy. I feel like this has played a large part in the fact that I have always pursued what I thought was right for me, not what others say is right for me.

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

Footy and work took up most of my energy since leaving school. I finished VCE in 2007 and then went straight into a Carpentry apprenticeship through Apprenticeships Group Australia (AGA). Through AGA I worked with a wide range of companies in the construction trade industry for 4 years.

I finished my apprenticeship in 2012 and began working in the construction industry for various builders in the Latrobe Valley, including a stint working for myself building decks, pergolas, and other small scale building projects. In 2016, I got my current job at Maryvale's Australian Paper Mill, where I work as an Operator, in production.





In December last year, I took a chance on an opportunity to try out with a kicking academy, Prokick Australia, to play College Football in America as a punter. After about a month of training, getting footage of my kicks, talking to prospective coaches, and sorting out the academic requirements of College in America, I was offered and agreed to a full 4 year scholarship with the Oklahoma State University Cowboys. Since then, I have been driving down to Melbourne as many as 4 times a week to train with Prokick Australia, and packing up my life to leave for America and start my journey in January 2019.

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

- Married Kelsey in March this year.
- Senior back-to-back premierships with Morwell Tigers 2013 - 2014.
- Gippsland League Interleague 2014
- Gippsland League Team of the Year 2014
- Mid Gippsland Football League (MGFL) Senior League Best And Fairest 2015
- All Gippsland Team of the Year 2015
- MGFL Team of the Year 2012, 2015, 2016, 2017
- Interleague Captain 2016



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

Make sure you think hard about what YOU enjoy and what YOU want to do with your life. The best thing about being in high school is that you've got so much to look forward to and so many different paths to go down. With a bit of guidance along the way, no career/life path is out of the question. On the flip side of that, don't get too stressed if you don't actually know what you want to do in life, it can seem like the end of high school is the start of the rest of your life and that is the path you'll go down forever. But don't get too caught up in what you are doing right now as "make or break",

I never once sat in a classroom studying with the thought of playing College Football in America. Your ambitions and aspirations may change along the way, and it's ok to change your mind on things. If I stuck to the career I wanted when I was at high school, I would never be in the position I'm in at the moment.

Give your best with your current aspirations and it will put you in good stead for whatever the future throws up.