

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

MALTE ADEBAHR

CLASS OF 2014



When did you attend Lowanna College, and what year level did you complete?

I attended Lowanna College between 2009-2014 and completed Year 12.

What are your memories of Lowanna College?

There are so many memories from Lowanna College! All the friends I made and people I met that I still see to this day! Personally, the technology classes really stood out to me the most, particularly the hovercraft class where we built a hovercraft and operated it at the end of the year! It was super rewarding seeing all the work pay off after months and months of work! Honestly, there are so many good memories from a variety of classes and activities I was

involved in. Coming from a small rural primary school, Lowanna really opened my eyes to the opportunities that are out there!

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

While my career today is certainly not what I thought I would be doing when I was a student at Lowanna, I think the variety of classes Lowanna had on offer really helped me to develop a wide range of skillsets that helped me once I entered the workforce.

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

My current career path is very different from what I imagined I would be doing during school, however there are certainly many teachers who had a positive impact on me. I was always very willing to learn, and found most teachers were very supportive of my learning, often catching up with me outside of class to help me with my learning.

Tell us about your journey after leaving Lowanna College, and where are you now?

While I was a student at Lowanna College, my outlook was to go to university to study automotive engineering, however the automotive industry in Australia collapsed as I was going into my senior years which left me re-thinking my career choices.



I ended up completing VET in order to receive both my VCE and get a pre-apprenticeship in fitting and turning, and left Lowanna trying to chase work in the power stations. Unsuccessful in that, I landed a job with Mahindra Aerospace, constructing light aircrafts. I worked in aviation for a little while, however found myself again in a collapsing market so that's when I really had to re-evaluate my life. I was always told, "do what you love and you'll never work a day in your life," and so I tried something completely new to me and started Forestry Firefighting, a job I fell in love with! I currently work as a career firefighter for a government forestry agency known as Forest Fire Management Victoria. I work year-round in emergency response, primarily as a Crew Leader on the fire line, where I have influence over fire strategies and take

control of various crews and equipment. It's a job that has taken me across the world as I've had the opportunity to fight fire both in Australia and Canada, through some catastrophic fire seasons.

What are your greatest accomplishments (awards, achievements, defining moments, travel, family etc.)?

I left Lowanna having received a few awards throughout my schooling years, however I certainly still had many accomplishments to come. During my schooling years I was competing in mountain bike events across Australia, having achieved Junior Club Champion three years in a row, as well as finishing third in the state in the Under 19 Men's Gravity Enduro Championship. In my fire career, I worked through Australia's worst fire season in history with the Black Summer fires in 2019/2020, for which I am to receive the National Emergency Medal, as well as having worked through Canada's worst fire season in British Columbia in 2023. I am about to get married, own my own house, (which I bought when I was 19), and have had the opportunity to travel both Australia and the world.

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

Don't get struck down by the opinions of others. There is so much you can achieve if you set your mind to it, and there are

opportunities around every corner if you look for them!

