

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

MITCHELL DROWLEY

CLASS OF 2012



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

I attended Lowanna College from 2009 through to Year 12 graduation in 2012.

What are your memories of Lowanna College?

I have a lot of fond memories of Lowanna. Loads of fun with friends during recess and lunch whilst also having the opportunity to knuckle down and learn in the classroom was great. Something I'll always be grateful for is the willingness of my teachers to put in discretionary time and effort for any students that were keen to learn.

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

I was fortunate enough to be surrounded with friendship groups who were both academically and physically active. This created a diversity of learning environments that was closely encouraged by a teaching staff who showed they cared for us and our future. My academic experiences at Lowanna provided opportunities to foster traits like "Grit" and "Collaboration" whilst the sport side provided growth in other areas, such as "Leadership" and "Teamwork". These traits are closely aligned with my core values and have helped to shape me into the person I am today.

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

Most definitely! I'm definitely going to miss some names here, because there were many positive influences... Mr. McDowall - the infamous "RMC"... his passion for math and science very much aligned with and enhanced my interests in STEM - he was an academic role model for sure. Miriam Pickett - who inspired my pathway into Engineering. Her openness to share her past life experiences in the industry generated an immense amount of curiosity about what a career in Engineering could be. Ryan Davis - my partner in crime through VCE. Having a friend who could support and motivate me to be the best version of myself was a huge positive influence.



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

After finishing up at Lowanna, I decided that University was the pathway to pursue... but not before I took a gap year to save some money and go exploring. Taking that year to build a solid foundation (both financially and in the workforce) provided a myriad of benefits that have paid dividends twelve years down the track (and hopefully beyond!). After a year of full-time work and some international travel, I started a four-year undergraduate Engineering degree at Monash University in Clayton, eventually discovering that Chemical Engineering was the specialty that aligned the most with my interests. Fast-forward four years and after completing work-experience (you can't get enough of this btw..!),

I was fortunate enough to graduate university with a job in the energy industry as a Chemical Engineer. I've since moved out to Sale in Eastern Victoria, experiencing several roles within the Engineering field and I've most recently moved into a leadership position with a focus on supervision of an engineering team - which is something that I derive immense joy and fulfilment from. Work has provided a richness of opportunity for both personal and professional growth, however I believe it's the learning environment (similar to what I experienced at Lowanna) that drives me every day.

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

Relationships. It's great to set your mind to goals and then work hard to achieve them, but in my experience the most challenging and fulfilling things in life are relationships - this is where you learn the most about yourself and the world around you. So put yourself out there - be vulnerable and create friendships centered on trust and genuine care. The benefits of healthy relationships will compound as you grow older and they truly do make your life a better one. A special shout out to: - My fiancé, Taylah (as cliché as it may sound), who is my best friend & someone who inspires and motivates me to be the best version of myself.

- My parents, my two brothers and their families and also my extended family - we stay in regular contact and I feel an incredible sense of stability, support and love from each and every one of them, which has been the foundation for all of my accomplishments to date. - My friends, both personal and professional who are always keen to help me grow and create plenty of new experiences and memories.

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

I have two pieces of advice to share: 1. There is a saying that you are the product of the five people you spend the most time with. So make sure those people love you, support you, challenge you and ultimately help you grow into the best version of yourself that you can be. The same applies the other way! 2. Life "happens" differently to everyone. Don't spend time comparing yourself to others. Treat your life like a race against yourself (Mario Kart style!!). Challenge yourself to be better than you were yesterday - your future self will thank you for it.

