

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

RACHEL SULTANA

CLASS OF 2016



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

I graduated Year 12 in 2016.

What are your memories of Lowanna College?

Science and English were definitely my favourite subjects. Both allowed me to ask 'why' and 'how' often, explore things from many different angles, and develop a greater understanding of 'people' and why we might be the way that we are. I also enjoyed the sporting opportunities to represent the school, and developing and challenging my leadership skills through the SRC.

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

It is often a misconception that only students who like science and maths become doctors, and sure, enjoying science and the human body is important, but English was easily my favourite subject. It taught me to look at people from all angles and critically observe how and why a patient has presented to me today in this way. Collaboration is integral to any healthcare profession, and the experiences gained from my role as a student leader and sporting team member have prepared me well for my daily work.

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

Emma Arthur was my English and Literature teacher through Middle and Senior School. She was always supportive of my goal to pursue medicine and helped me learn about the different pathways to get there. She helped me research entrance exams and scholarships, and not once suggested I needed to rethink my ambitions. During my Biomedical Science studies, I was inspired to explore lab-based research opportunities after hearing stories from my Chemistry teacher Nicole Taylor. I never would have considered stepping foot in a professional lab otherwise.



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

- Both Bachelor degrees (not so thrilled with the HECS debt that was gifted along with these...!),
- Awarded the Christine McMenemy Professionalism Award and Monash Rural Health Research Prize at medicine graduation;
- Presenting at the International Conference for Undergraduate Research.

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

No one should dictate the limits to your potential- not yourself, or others. If you want it, find your team to help you get there, and go for it. There are many ways to get from point A to B, embrace your unique journey and enjoy the detours.



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

After graduating I dived into a 3-year Bachelor of Biomedical Science degree at Monash University where my eyes were well and truly opened into the vast opportunities available in health and research. I explored developmental biology and had the opportunity to participate in research and present at international conferences. I was then accepted into Monash University's 4-year graduate medicine program where I graduated with a Bachelor of Medical Science, Doctor of Medicine. I have since begun my professional career as a doctor under the Victorian Rural Generalist Program in Gippsland, currently working at Sale Hospital. I aim to fellow as a rural generalist with an extended skill in community paediatrics.

