

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

COURTNEY BROADBENT CLASS OF 2013



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

I completed Year 12 in 2013 .

What are your memories of Lowanna College?

My memories of Lowanna College are filled with great moments and wonderful friendships. I formed many lasting relationships with people I'm still extremely close with today. The school offered plenty of opportunities to express my creative side, allowing me to explore more than just traditional subjects like English and Maths. It was a place where I felt supported and encouraged to always do my best.

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

Without the opportunity to do VCAL in my senior years, I don't think I would be where I am now. As a hands-on learner, VCAL was perfect for me. It allowed me to pursue further studies at TAFE and gain practical work experience, both of which were crucial in my development and career path.

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

There were plenty of teachers I liked at Lowanna College, but two stand out for their positive impact on my path.

One of my favorites was Miss Sheahey, who, during Middle School, really put in the effort to understand me and help motivate me to pay attention and not let my focus stray. Toward the end of my schooling, Mrs. Wood became my favorite teacher. Cooking class was my favorite place, and she understood that I worked best on my own. She allowed me to complete tasks individually, knowing I would be less distracted and more productive this way. I have bumped into her on a few occasions since leaving school and she always sounds genuinely interested in what I am up to.

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

Since finishing high school, my journey has been both exciting and fulfilling. In 2012, my family opened a café, and right after Year 12 completion, I jumped into a one-on-one chef's apprenticeship where my educator taught me on-site. I completed the apprenticeship in record time, then learned to

make coffee as a barista, which is a favourite part of my job as I get to connect with so many people. I worked my way into a managerial role, and now I co-own the shop with my mum. One of my most recent accomplishments at work has been creating a healthy catering menu with the help of LCHS where I now am privileged to cater for a lot of government, council and education departments in between daily service. During the Covid pandemic, I started my own successful side business that lets me focus on my creativity. I make and sell personalised vinyl items—such as drinkware, clothing, and gifts—and offer signwriting services for businesses and events. On weekends when I am not at my cafe, you will most likely find me at a local market showcasing my products.

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

In my personal life - I've traveled to several states within Australia, enjoying thrilling experiences like scuba diving with sharks, climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge, entering the Crocodile Cage of Death in Darwin, and skydiving at St. Kilda Beach. In my work life - I completed my chef apprenticeship a year ahead of schedule, showcasing my dedication, quick learning, and strong work ethic. Through hands-on experience, I taught myself how to make coffee and became proficient enough to be asked to train staff at another venue in Cowarr. I developed a healthy catering menu within my cafe, becoming one of the few local businesses to offer such an option. During COVID-19, I started my own side hustle, demonstrating my entrepreneurial spirit and ability to adapt in challenging times. Additionally, I created and managed a local pop-up craft market, which successfully ran for over a year before temporarily pausing due to my other commitments.

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

As a small business owner and entrepreneur, my advice to current students at Lowanna College is to embrace learning and take every opportunity to gain hands-on experience. Don't be afraid to pursue your passions, even if it means stepping outside of your comfort zone. Starting a business requires resilience and adaptability, so be prepared for challenges and learn from them. Networking and building relationships can open doors and provide valuable support. Most importantly, stay true to your vision, work hard, and remain patient; success often takes time.

