

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## JARED CAKE

CLASS OF 2018



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

I graduated at Lowanna College in 2018 - I completed Year 12.

***What are your memories of Lowanna College?***

Throughout my 6 years at Lowanna College (from 2013-2018) I created memories such as attending Year 8 camp to Melbourne, creating amazing positive friendships and attending the Year 12 graduation.

One thing that had a massive impact on my schooling and feeling positive about my schooling choices in life was the Year 10 Middle School Camp to Tasmania. I had an

amazing time exploring Hobart and Port Arthur. Creating an amazing experience with every single task that we completed made the camp even more enjoyable than it already was.

The annual School Musical was always something to be excited about. I participated in three school musicals in 2013, 2014 and 2015. In 2013 I had the lead role in the musical 'Smithy' - what an amazing experience that was, and maybe one of the most stressful moments of my time at Lowanna College.

I also attended multiple sports day; swimming, tennis, table tennis, badminton and hockey, all amazing activities that I

sincerely enjoyed. Always was a special day out with mates.

A major part of my schooling was in the Music Department, learning the flute with amazing Miss Morgan. I learnt so much that I still have retained to this day.

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

I think that it is quite apparent that my time at Lowanna College has made me who I am today, including my ability to be resilient and have the thick skin I need to complete my job (that I love so much).

Having a few teachers that were always there for me when I needed someone really impacted me and helped me when deciding the teacher that I wanted to be.

Overall, my experiences at Lowanna College played a huge role in shaping who I am today. Completing my VCE at Lowanna helped me develop strong academic skills, resilience and independence. Being involved in many areas at the school at such a high level also taught me valuable lessons in teamwork, leadership and time management, which have carried through to different areas of my life.

Looking back, I can see how my time at Lowanna influenced my decision to become a teacher. Whether it was through inspiring teachers or certain experiences, I developed a passion for creating engaging and inclusive learning environments. These experiences have shaped my approach to teaching and the way I support my students today.

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

I had a number of teachers who were always there to help me when I needed it through my time completing VCE. Mrs. McMillan for



English, Ms. Pickett for Maths, Mrs. Cane for Health and Human Development, Mrs. Bannister and Ms. Timmins for Food Technology and Ms. Lobb for Business Management. I always struggled with a few concepts in each of my classes and found that these teachers made it incredibly easy for me to understand what I needed to do.

Ms. Pickett assisted me when working with shapes as I struggled to visualise objects. We would cut out shapes which allowed me to **see** the shapes - this is something that I have carried with me to this day. Mrs. Cane would make each senior student feel special by baking something for the end of each month for birthdays. These are only a couple of things that made my VCE experience one to remember - I wanted to be at school. It has clearly influenced my career choice, and I will always endeavour to continue these types of behaviours with my own students.

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

I graduated from Year 12 in 2018. I received an 'okay' ATAR and I got an offer into a Diploma of Education, which is a stepping-stone into a bachelor's degree. In 2019, I moved to Hoppers Crossing where I continued my further education at Victoria University, completing a Diploma of Education which was a one-year course.

In 2020, I moved again but over to a suburb known as Wyndham Vale. I was accepted into a Bachelor of Education, which was three years with past credit. Then COVID hit and as everyone is aware everything moved online. I was completing a major in Mathematics and a minor in Food Technology - it made for an interesting time because it became difficult to make new friends (I got one out of the COVID times that I still talk to) but we all prevailed and are here now!

Three years passed and I decided to continue further and was accepted into a Masters of Secondary Education. I have made two amazing friends, who without them I do not think we would have made it through those late nights writing thousands upon thousands of words, but I graduated early March 2025 and made it. Throughout 2024 I was completing my teaching placements at Bairnsdale Secondary College in East Gippsland, and I really enjoyed it - the teachers were super supportive and welcoming.



Before I finished placement, I had a meeting with the amazing principal and he spoke to me about staying and working as a Food Technology Teacher. I am super proud and happy to say that I teach Years 8-11 Food Technology at Bairnsdale Secondary College and am absolutely loving it, mainly because it brings new challenges to me every single day.

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

The main accomplishment I have is completing my Masters of Secondary Education, holding that certificate made everything feel worthwhile, all the time that was put in felt worth it.

Not to mention the perseverance through COVID to complete a full degree while at home!

I also had the opportunity to travel to Bali - seeing the amazing sights and tasting the flavour packed food that belongs to such a unique and diverse country was something that you cannot experience in Australia.

I could not be any more thankful to the multiple people I have met (who are in the photos) and those who have been there for me throughout my whole university experience.

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

My advice would be that no matter what life throws at you there is always another side that is happy, and this should be your goal in life.

But also, for the senior students who stress night after night after night about ATAR scores, these do not define who you are as an individual. Think of it as just a number. There are multiple pathways to help you get where you want to end up and it may take an extra year or two, but it takes the stress away from thinking that your ATAR shows who you are.

Finally, your teachers are there to help you, ask them if you are not sure about something (we cannot read minds and we cannot possibly know what you are thinking). Your teachers are a resource - use them wisely as they have an impressive amount of knowledge to share with you.

