

ISSUE 2 | 2018



CLASS OF 2008
10yr reunion

ALUMNI
stories

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

ALUMNI
facts & stats
2002-2018



SUNSHINE COAST
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



10 YEAR REUNION 2008-2018



RSVP

By Friday 14 September
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SUNSHINE COAST
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



MARIA WOODS
Principal

**“A time to
remember,
a time to laugh,
a time to
celebrate,
a time to share
old stories and
make new
memories.”**

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Alumni section of the Grammar Quarterly magazine.

We are proud to celebrate our Grammar Alumni family, which now numbers more than 1600 members since our first Year 12 cohort graduated in 2002, with some living as far afield as Stockholm, Calgary, London and New York. In a busy world, as our alumni are forging their individual journeys outside the school gates, Grammar Alumni aims to support and maintain connections with all our graduates; to offer an avenue of unity and friendship for you to stay connected with each other; to promote and facilitate networking and social opportunities; gain insights from your experiences; and to share your stories with the Grammar community.

Throughout the year, it has been inspiring to welcome back many alumni as visitors, guest speakers, coaches and mentors. We have also been delighted to welcome the next generation of alumni children into our classrooms! May I take this opportunity to extend an open invitation to all our alumni to come back and visit your old stomping ground. You may simply like to reminisce about your school days and say hello to teaching staff who inspired you, or we can offer you a campus tour to check out new facilities that may not have been in place during your school days, or maybe you'd be interested in offering your advice and expertise to current students on your time post-Grammar.

I look forward to a special evening with the Class of 2008 at your upcoming 10 Year Reunion what a milestone! “A time to remember, a time to laugh, a time to celebrate, a time to share old stories and make new memories.” Please check in with Grammar Alumni @AlumniSCGS on Facebook to keep abreast of future events and get-togethers.

We are incredibly proud of all our alumni since graduating from Grammar, and trust you will enjoy reading the stories on the following pages. Wherever you are and whatever you are doing, please stay in touch and share with us your achievements and adventures.

Mrs Maria Woods
Principal

**GET IN
TOUCH**

**WE WOULD LOVE
TO HEAR FROM YOU**

*Grammar Alumni are invited to contact
Sunshine Coast Grammar School to share their journeys.*



@AlumniSCGS



alumni@scgs.qld.edu.au



scgs.qld.edu.au/alumni



THE FISHER FIVE

2018 marks a milestone for the Fisher family with the last of their five daughters, Andrea, graduating from Grammar this year. The family have been at the school since foundation with Chantelle, Lauren and Carly among the first students to walk through the school gates in 1997, followed in 1999 by Gina and then in 2005 when Andrea joined Prep.

"We arrived from Hong Kong and became Australian residents in 1996. We were looking for a school which would be able to take all our girls at the same time. Grammar has been a remarkable experience for us all as a family. As a parent I have always felt part of the Grammar community. I have watched the school grow from initially 320 students to over 1300 today. The teachers have been wonderful to our children at every stage of their education. They have received all the support they could possibly need in every subject."

It seems just like yesterday the girls each planted a tree to commemorate the foundation and opening of the school. 22 years later the grounds are so impressive, and it really is a joy to drive into the school between the two lakes.

Assemblies in Grammar Hall are a far cry from the early days where students all brought their chairs to the Primary play area. The highlights were always Book Week when staff and students made their costumes. Parents were always encouraged to stay especially if children were taking part with their class or receiving awards.

In my experience, Grammar gives every child the opportunity to make the best of their abilities. I know my girls are proud to say they have graduated from Sunshine Coast Grammar. Thank you to all the teachers and staff who made their school days happy ones, and helped them to achieve their individual goals."

Mrs Fisher



2003 alumnus Chantelle graduated in 2008 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts with First Class Honours. Her career achievements include exhibiting jewellery works internationally, working for Calleija Jewellers London and being published in the Australian Gemmologist (Journal of the Gemmological Association of Australia).

2006 alumnus Lauren completed her Bachelor of Public Relations and Communications at the University of the Sunshine Coast in 2009. From 2010-2014 she worked as a flight attendant for Emirates before travelling to Toronto Canada where she now resides, working at the Ritz-Carlton Toronto.

2008 alumnus Carly spent a gap year working at Sunshine Coast Pet Resort before travelling throughout Europe. In 2010 she commenced studies in a Town Planning degree at the University of Queensland before transferring to Bio Medical Engineering. She will graduate later this year.

2011 alumnus Gina graduated from the University of Queensland in 2016 with a Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours). She is current working as a Research Assistant on the Veteran Mental Health team at Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation.

Graduating from the *Class of 2018*, **Andrea** plans to study a double degree in Journalism, majoring in Italian, at the University of Queensland next year.



ALUMNI Facts & Stats



1626

ALUMNI GRADUATES
2002-2017



+120

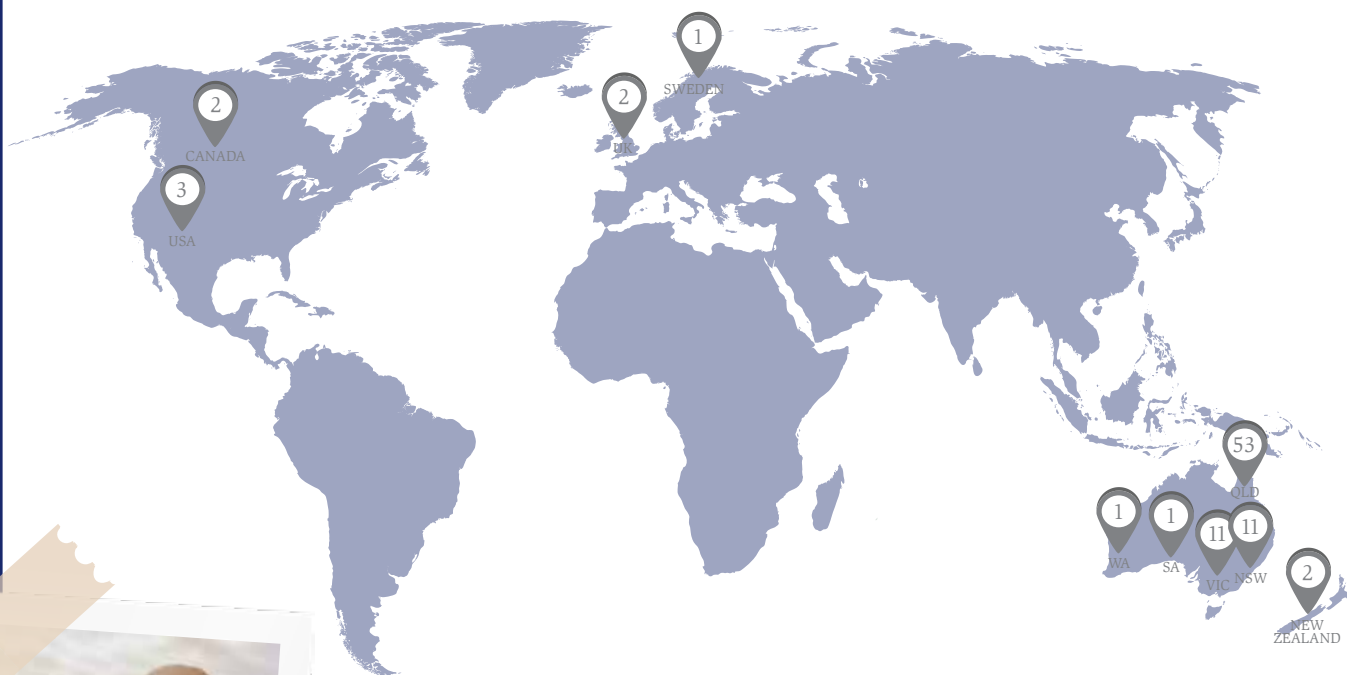
ALUMNI GRADUATES
2018



784

FACEBOOK
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WHERE ARE OUR ALUMNI NOW?



ZACHARIAH BUCKLEY
Class of 2013

LATIN JUNKY

I was not the most academically gifted student at school, but I would consider myself the most driven. After being one of four indigenous students at Sunshine Coast Grammar at the time, I felt I had a massive duty to challenge stereotypes. I went straight

from Year 12 to university, where I studied a Bachelor of Business Management. Whilst studying, I travelled to Cambodia on a volunteer program where I went scuba diving to help build the world's largest man-made reef. I also travelled to Las Vegas, Los Angeles and Arizona to attend business seminars. In my last semester of study, I enjoyed time abroad in Italy; France; England; Barcelona, Spain; and Croatia – so it is fair to say I have lived the university dream! During this time, I also worked at Westpac in Bankstown, Sydney in the commercial banking sector, along with Mirvac in their marketing department. So I guess it would also be fair to say I was fortunate enough to live the corporate dream as well.

While at university, I worked for the Vice-Chancellor and it was very interesting being around the smartest people in the world with more PhDs than years I had lived! The best part of university; however, was finding my

absolute passion for salsa dancing. With no school to teach salsa, I decided to start my own business which I called Latin Junky. I have taught at international festivals, danced throughout Europe and had the time of my life. All this led to my current career choice, which literally makes me jump out of bed each and every single morning.

I now visit schools teaching about a growth mindset and how I won four Australian Latin Dance Championship titles, while motivating and performing my very own award winning salsa routine for hundreds of students. There is a lot more to my story than the few short words I have shared here, but needless to say this is only the beginning with my current goal to present 1000 school talks before I'm 25. I will then look up and see where the next chapter may take me; however, until then, I live each day to inspire a student who was just like me with lots of dreams, but no way of achieving them. I now give those students the tools to achieve their dreams.



STEVE BULL
Class of 2002

A PICTURE IS A POEM WITHOUT WORDS

One of the graduates in our first cohort of alumni, Steve Bull dropped into Grammar recently to have a tour around the campus and reminisce about school days.

Now a professional commercial photographer based in Brisbane, Steve's business, Black Bee Studio, focuses on advertising and commercial commissions. His pathway into photography, however, evolved from an initial foray into the architectural industry. After completing Year 12, Steve commenced studying Architectural Design at UQ and was then offered a position with KP Architects where he was responsible for \$5m projects, from design to construction. After office hours, he was pursuing his love of music and further harnessing his creative streak by photographing music concerts and festivals, which led to the creation of an online music magazine.

Drawing his aesthetics from music and personal work, and with his architectural background, Steve specialises in large-scale commercial building and industrial work, as well as photographing smaller, boutique, residential designs, and on-location portraits and lifestyle shoots.

With a collaborative approach and an ever growing list of clients, Steve has established a network of contacts and partnerships that have enhanced his standing in the photography industry. In 2017, he was honoured at the Brisbane Advertising and Design Club annual awards night with three awards, including a Silver for Creative Imaging.

After shaping his own path through a highly competitive industry, Steve is an advocate of mentoring young photographers and his advice is to, *"be present at every opportunity, make contacts, and put yourself out there."* Steve's personal goals into the future include specialising in 3D technology and 360° 'experience' shoots.

ALUMNI Stories

NICOLE HALLORAN
Class of 2002



GRAMMAR ALUMNI

GRAMMAR IS HOME

After finishing school in 2002, I studied Early Childhood Education on the Gold Coast before moving back to the Sunshine Coast in 2004. I worked at Montessori until 2006 then started in the Pre School room at Grammar. Soon after, I moved to Grammar's Early Learning Centre, before returning back to the school in 2010 as a Teacher Aide in the Learning Support department, working with a student with special needs, which was extremely rewarding. In 2016, I transferred across to Primary Sport and absolutely love my job! I have taken on the role of Staff Member in Charge of Football (Soccer) and Club Cricket. I really enjoy my role and hope I am still working here at Grammar in ten years' time!

Without doubt, my greatest achievements so far have been my two boys who are now 10 and 7. I love travelling and look forward to seeing more of the world with my family in the next few years, with Disneyland high up on the list! I also want to try to make more time to focus on my fitness and health, which sometimes gets neglected when I am so busy.

I have so many great memories of my school years at Grammar, but a highlight was the Year 11 camp at Fraser Island when we were flooded, and our tents and clothes were saturated. We had to huddle together to stay warm and ended up having the best time! I am also proud of my role as Bradman's House Captain in both Year 11 and 12, as well as being among the first Year 12 students to graduate from Grammar.

To all students, I encourage you to follow your dreams, don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone to take on new challenges, love yourself and your life, always work hard and enjoy what you do, and never give up when you make mistakes because they are an important part of learning.



EVE NORTON
Class of 2008

LAW AND MUSIC WHAT A COMBINATION

2008 graduate, Eve Norton, is currently based in Sydney working as a Lawyer for Sony Music Entertainment. After completing her Bachelor of Laws and Criminology at QUT in 2014, Eve spent three months travelling around Europe before moving to London to gain overseas experience in law firms. She lived in London for two years and then took the opportunity for further travel in Central America before returning home.

In 2017, Eve was admitted as a Lawyer at the Queensland Supreme Courts. Eve credits her Year 11-12 Legal Studies teacher at Grammar, Mr Riggall, with guiding her on her legal pathway, *"as crazy as it sounds, he made legal studies enjoyable!"*



JOSH STONE

Class of 2012

HAS IT BEEN SIX YEARS ALREADY

It's hard to fathom that it has already been six years since I was jumping into the lake to celebrate finishing school. Naturally, I have so many good memories from my eight years of schooling at Grammar. Some of the highlights would have to be the three international rugby tours courtesy of Mr Robotham and the amazing learning support teachers that helped me get through school in general.

After finishing school, I went on to study Engineering at the University of Queensland, along with a bed at Kings College. Early on in my studies I realised I wasn't going to achieve amazing grades, so it was important to try and gain as much work experience as possible. Before my third year of university, I was lucky enough to gain experience with Qantas, McDermott Aviation, Aeromil Pacific and the Toyota Cusco Rally team. I also completed a lot of my own personal projects consisting of cars, motorbikes and surfboards.

In my third year, I thought I would take advantage of the incentives the government and university had on offer to study overseas and spent six months studying in Milan, Italy. After those six amazing months, I wasn't ready to come home. From a simple online application (which took days

to complete) and a few interviews, I was offered a 12-month internship with Rolls-Royce Motor Cars in the UK. This was a real pinch-me moment and no, I wasn't just dreaming! Mrs Baxter-Reid can even vouch for me as she came to visit me at the factory.

After my internship it was back to reality and I started working for a micro consulting firm in Brisbane (only two engineers) while also completing my studies. Again, wanting to take advantage of all the money the government is willing to put towards international experiences for students, I received a New Colombo Grant to spend my last ever semester studying in Kyushu University. Part of my course there also involved visiting some of the best factories Japan has to offer, including Toyota and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries.

This brings us to now, six years since graduating from Sunshine Coast Grammar. I have finished my Engineering degree and just signed a contract with AB InBev to be a part of their graduate program (brewing beer). If I was to offer any advice to current students, it would be to, *"never sit still. Always keep looking for the next thing and don't be scared to jump into the unknown, whether that be moving overseas or trying to do something you never have before."*

DILUM EKANAYAKE
Class of 2010

ICU REGISTRAR

We were delighted to once again welcome back to Grammar our 2010 School Captain, Dilum Ekanayake, to speak to Year 11 and 12 students interested in studying Medicine.

After graduating from UQ last year with a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Medicine Surgery, Dilum is now the ICU Registrar at Holy Spirit Northside Private Hospital in Brisbane. He is also the Registrar for the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Portfolio Lead for the Australian Medical Association, and an Associate Lecturer for Griffith University and UQ. In addition to this impressive résumé, Dilum is continuing to study for a Masters of Public Health with Monash University and will be attending courses in the UK later this year to study basic surgical skills and advanced trauma life support.



While his future aspirations are to specialise in Cardio Thoracic Surgery, Dilum's current General Practitioner training allows him to experience a broad scope of medicine and life, while offering some flexibility to enjoy travel and time with family. "I travel twice a year, mostly to Europe," said Dilum, "you need to have things you enjoy doing outside of work."

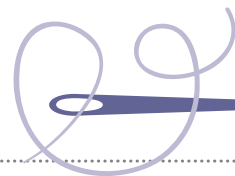
Dilum was generous with his advice and sharing his experiences with our students. He encouraged students to have a goal, to be clear about why they wanted that goal, and to hang onto their goal. *"Every single day I come home satisfied I have achieved something. In medicine, you will affect people's lives and that sense of purpose is worth it."*

He further suggested that students should consider goals for not only their careers, but also family, personal and financial goals, and to include a timeline so that targets can be broken down into manageable markers. Dilum advised that studies and careers pathway can be constantly evolving and that flexibility in resetting goals is important. "Nothing worth having comes easy; however, if you love what you do, you'll get through it," said Dilum.

When asked about a career highlight to date, Dilum responded that, simply, it is his patients. "You never forget your patients, and they don't forget you."

We are grateful for Dilum's time in offering insights into a medical career to our students, and we look forward to following this inspirational young doctor's career into the future.

SEWING UP A STORM IN THEATRE AND FILM



After finishing at Grammar in 2008, I moved to Hobart to study a Bachelor of Psychology at the University of Tasmania. I completed two years of the degree before deciding this was not the career path for me! So I took a year off University and worked at the Museum of Old and New Art while completing a short course in fashion design at TAFE. I undertook some work experience in the costume department on a feature film and LOVED it.

I then looked into my options for studying Costume Design at university and was accepted into the highly competitive Bachelor of Fine Arts majoring in Production Design at the University of Melbourne. This degree was a really practical course and I was trained to design and make costumes for theatre and film.

Upon completing this three year degree in 2015, my partner and I relocated to London. During my two years in London I worked as a freelance costume maker. I constructed costumes for numerous shows at the Royal Opera House and the Royal Ballet, the West End musicals Dreamgirls, 42nd Street and Hamilton, and a BBC TV series - the Miniaturist. Seeing costumes that I made on the stage in the Royal Opera House in London is a definite career highlight for me so far!!

I also travelled extensively around the northern hemisphere - my favourite countries visited were Turkey, Morocco and Egypt.

My partner Eamon and I, and our dog Scully, are now settled back in Melbourne where Eamon is a software engineer for Qantas. I am working as a freelance costume designer, primarily on television commercials and independent theatre productions.

My favourite memories of Grammar are definitely all related to Drama - our Year 12 production of Through the Looking Glass and musical The Wiz were definite highlights. I also loved the extracurricular dance and cheerleading program, especially the opportunities I had to travel interstate for competitions. Looking back on it - it's no wonder I've ended up with a career in the Arts!

My advice to anyone wishing to pursue a career in costume design or the Arts in general is to seek out and take on as much work experience as possible - studying at University is amazing, but nothing can quite beat real life, on the job training and experience in this industry. Also to students generally - it's OK to change your mind about what you're studying, take time off from study or try out lots of different avenues. We're so young when we finish school - I now have my dream career and I didn't even know this line of work was a possibility when I was in Year 12.

I'm hoping over the next ten years to continue travelling as much as possible and to progress even further in my field - *I'd love to be designing costumes for big budget film and television - watch for my name in the credits!* You can also check out some of my costume designs on my website, www.laurajeanhawkins.com

LAURA HAWKINS
Class of 2008



#Good things take time ©

AT HOME IN THE COUNTRY

Since graduating from Grammar back in 2004 and securing his driver's licence, Jake Manns has been behind the wheel as a professional driver working in both deliveries and taxis from Mackay and Roma to Brisbane. Now based in Toowoomba, Jake is a contract driver for ANC Couriers with Bunnings as his biggest client. In 2016, Jake married his wife Leonie with 2005 graduate Dean Radford his best man and, as we go to print, they are excitedly expecting their first baby together.

Jake and Leonie are loving the country lifestyle and look forward to raising their family into the future on their own acreage home in Toowoomba, where they also hope to have their own business. Looking further ahead, their plans include travel, with the USA high on the bucket list!

JAKE MANNS
Class of 2004





**ALEXANDRA DERICKX
(NEE SPENDER)**

Class of 2008

RENOVATING AND SELLING PROPERTY

A decision to defer studying her Bachelor of Human Movement at UQ and gain full-time employment allowed 2008 alumnus Alexandra Derickx to buy her first investment property at just 19 years of age. With a growing love of real estate, Alex obtained her sales licence in 2010 and commenced work as a sales agent for RE/MAX. She was an integral member of the successful RE/MAX residential sales team who were awarded RE/MAX Australia's best property marketers for four

consecutive years from 2011-2014. Alex was subsequently offered a position with Ray White Commercial in 2015, in a marketing and administrative role.

Alex met her husband Andrew in 2010, and they became engaged in 2013 whilst travelling through Canada before marrying at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat in 2015. Alex and Andrew have travelled extensively together including a 7-week European honeymoon where they ticked off bucket list destinations such as Santorini, Oktoberfest in Munich, and Switzerland. "Our favourite place to visit is Silverstar in Canada, and I'm looking forward to celebrating my 30th there!" said Alex. Now proud parents to 18-month old daughter Addison with a second bub due in November this year, not to mention furbaby Einstein, Alex and Andrew are currently renovating their home in preparation for sale later in the year. They own a small business buying, renovating and selling property and in January next year, Alex plans to study a Diploma of Interior Styling and Design with the goal of starting her own interior design business. "In five years time, I hope to have my own home-based interior design business while being an active and hands-on mum to two amazing little girls and slowly building our property portfolio."

Thinking back to her school days, Alex recalls arriving at Grammar in Year 11 and immediately feeling welcome and part of the school community. "Being named Sturt House Captain was a huge and unexpected privilege. I was a sports fanatic and genuinely enjoyed every aspect of the responsibility – right down to dressing up in leopard print!" Alex paid tribute to her Biology teacher, now retired Mr Buttenshaw, "What a legend! I feel so lucky to have had Mr Buttenshaw as a teacher. He made Biology fun and kept school a light-hearted and joyful place to be."

The final word from Alex offers valuable insights for current students. "I was never 100% certain as to what I wanted to do after school. I went to university because it felt like the 'right' path to take, but I realised early on that it wasn't for me. Thankfully I stumbled across a happy and successful career in real estate and renovating, but only now, ten years after graduating, have I truly realised what I'm passionate about. My journey may be longer than some because having a family was always important to me, *but the best advice I can offer is not to stress about 'what you're going to be when you grow up'. Finding what you love doesn't always happen overnight, but never give up on realising a passion.*

EVIEKINI

After graduating from Grammar in 2012, Evangeline Keevil studied at both the University of the Sunshine Coast and the University of Millersville, Pennsylvania (United States), completing a Bachelor of Business, majoring in Marketing, and Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Graphic Design, minoring in E-media.

Evie then went on to work in the Marketing team for the Billabong Group, one of the largest surf brands in the world. She currently works across large surf brands including Billabong, Quiksilver, Surf Dive N Ski, Element, Von Zipper, Roxy, RVCA and many more.

In addition, Evie has now launched her own swimwear label coined 'eviekini'. Although still in its infancy, the business is already globally recognised and has released two collections, the most recent collection 'TribeZ' was launched in June. "It all

EVANGELINE KEEVIL


Class of 2012

started with a love for the ocean. From the shores of the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast, 'eviekini' is seaside luxe kini brand that embodies high-quality materials with unique styles and prints." Evie designs all the swimwear styles & hand paints all of the prints. The business is also in partnership with 'Save Fraser Island Dingoes' and actively raises money for this cause.

Evie's partner Lincoln is a professional Waterman, and together they travel the world as Lincoln competes in Stand Up Paddle Boarding - he currently sits at number 3 on the world ranks. Recently, they spent two weeks in Japan and travelled to the Zamami Islands.

Check out Evie's website
<https://eviekini.com>





HAYDEN FRANKLIN
Class of 2011

THE ART OF FILM

2011 graduate, Hayden Franklin, initially headed off to Kings College to commence a degree in Multimedia Design at UQ before transferring his studies to Business at QUT. He was then offered a sales position at Youi Insurance, a role he still considers valuable today for the workforce and customer service skills he learned during this time.

In October 2015, Hayden headed to Canada to follow his dream of completing a 12 month Diploma of Film and Television Production at the Vancouver Film School. After a year of intense industry study, Hayden graduated with Honours and directed a final film that went on to win a few awards at international film festivals. He was then offered employment with Hallmark Channel creating sets for multi-million dollar film productions. *"Film set construction is incredibly hard work, particularly when it's snowing, and the hours are long, but I learnt so much,"* said Hayden.

Returning to the Sunshine Coast in July 2017, Hayden founded On The Day Films, a film production company offering a streamlined process to capture all facets of video and photo for corporate, promotional and creative projects. With a current client list including the Nutrigrain Ironman Series, Sunshine Coast Lightning and Red Bull, Hayden aspires to continue growing the success of his company with bigger commercial productions and, ultimately, to establish his own studio.

Over the last few years, Hayden has been fortunate to travel to many destinations throughout the world, and names Scandinavia and Switzerland among his favourite places. "I also love Central and South America, where I've spent time in Panama, Bolivia, Peru and Argentina." In his spare time, Hayden indulges his passion for snowboarding, as well as making music videos and creative filming. He has put his hand to landscaping projects in Canada, and also dabbled in acting as an extra on Hollywood blockbuster 'The Railway Man' starring Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman.

To follow Hayden's portfolio of work, check out his website www.onthedayfilms.com



CLARE HARRIS
Class of 2008

FOR THE LOVE OF COMPUTATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE

2008 graduate, Clare Harris, is a junior medical doctor currently studying a Master of Philosophy in Computational Neuroscience with the support of a Research Training Scholarship at the Queensland Brain Institute. After completing an undergraduate dual degree (Bachelors of Health Sciences/Medicine and Surgery), Clare spent 2015-2016 studying postgraduate mathematics as a distance student while working full-time. Eventually deciding that computational neuroscience could connect her clinical and academic interests, she recently had her first paper accepted for publication in *Frontiers in Neuroscience* (doi: 10.3389/fnins.2018.00598; preprint online at <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/early/2018/07/13/365056>).

"I'm sure that if it wasn't for the quality of mathematics teaching from Year 8 onwards, I wouldn't have developed my love of mathematics or studied further in the area, and I wouldn't have discovered computational neuroscience," said Clare. "For this, I am especially grateful to Mr Burnett, who made mathematics fun and easy to understand." Clare is also grateful to all the other teachers who contributed to her love of learning including Monsieur Marohasy, Mrs Brady, Mrs Roush, Mr Evans, and Mrs Wyatt. Her Year 7 teacher, Mr Chris Smith, stands out in her memory for asking students to define the ever-important

concepts of respect and honesty as their first homework exercises for the year.

Clare is passionate about effective altruism (EA) and loves attending Effective Altruism Global x Australia (EAGxAustralia) conferences. "The EA community is full of people trying to find the best ways to help others effectively, using the time, skills and resources available to them," enthused Clare. "When I first realised this community existed in 2015, it was one of the best days of my life! It is a brilliant community to be part of because it includes people from many different disciplines, working on many different problems, with the shared overarching goal of helping others as much as they can."

Although she doesn't have a definitive goal set for her research career, Clare is focused on finding a topic within the field of neuroscience that would have a large, positive expected value to society, and one that has been relatively unexplored so far. For now, she is interested in the application of neuroscience to children's education and moral development, as well as to the diagnosis and management of psychiatric and cluster B personality disorders. She is also interested in how computational neuroscience can relate to artificial intelligence safety research, such as that undertaken by the Future of Humanity Institute.

MENTAL HEALTH IS NOT A DIRTY WORD

2005 alumnus, Elise Jione, graduated from UQ with a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) and a Bachelor of Business Management (International Business) in 2009. She then spent two years with the Fiji Red Cross Society as an Australian Volunteer for International Development, working as Finance Development Officer. This role entailed providing capacity building support and training to the civil society organisation. "I was able to ensure the organisation could function effectively to administer and implement donor funded programs in disaster risk reduction, health, gender, and climate change," said Elise. "I have many memories of participating in various programs that were in remote villages all over Fiji." During her time in Fiji, Elise also participated in disaster response and assisted in delivering relief items to those in need. "I have Fijian heritage and it was really great to be embedded in the diverse cultures that are in Fiji (Fijian, Indian, Polynesian)."



ELISE JIONE
Class of 2005

Elise is currently working at the Sunshine Coast Mind & Neuroscience - Thompson Institute, which is part of the University of the Sunshine Coast, where she is managing a research program in mental health with a focus on Suicide Prevention. "One of the aspects of the program is implementing a 4-level community-based intervention targeting depression, for the

Sunshine Coast area, with the objective of reducing suicide rates for our local community. We are also undertaking a world first longitudinal adolescent brain study." She will graduate with an MBA from USC and CPA in early 2019.

"Friendships are what I value most from my years at Grammar," recalls Elise. "My closest friends now in 2018 can be tracked right back to Year 5 in 1999 – almost 20 years!" Now a mum, Elise is looking forward to her young daughter growing and developing in the Grammar community into the future.

Elise encourages young people to explore different paths in their chosen career and to step outside their comfort zone, suggesting they, "don't feel confined to a traditional career in their field of study." From her own experience, she also believes work experience in various industries is highly valued and can provide unexpected future opportunities.

For further information on Elise's research work at the Thompson Institute on youth mental health, please check out www.usc.edu.au/sunshine-coast-mind-neuroscience-thompson-institute



GEORGIA RAY
(NEE CHAPMAN)

Class of 2003

FORENSIC AND CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

"I am a qualified Registered Psychologist with ten years working experience in both forensic and clinical psychology. I gained

my Bachelor and Honours qualifications in Brisbane at the University of Queensland (UQ) and then moved to Sydney to complete my Masters in Forensic Psychology at the University of New South Wales (UNSW). After working in corrective services, namely Silverwater Men's and Women's maximum security correctional centres, I found a passion for helping the individual in a clinical environment. Eight years ago, I started my private practice, Hope Psychological Services, in Bondi Junction as a result of the fulfilment I gained through working with adults, adolescents and couples. Just over a year ago, I returned to Noosa with my husband and two children, Oscar (3 ½) and Claudia (2), once I realised that home was where my heart was. I enjoy cooking, running, swimming and most of all, spending time with my family. I currently run my private practice from Noosa and also work at Noosa Confidential which is a residential and non-residential rehabilitation facility. Noosa Confidential has been an exciting opportunity to work close to home, but also in the areas that are my passion, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, as well as eating disorder recovery, with a strong focus on gut health and nutrition.

My goals for the future primarily revolve around raising my children, Oscar and Claudia, to be individuals who can think for themselves, are thoughtful and can contribute to the community in a meaningful way. I am also wife to my husband, David Ray, who has established a very successful mortgage broking business, Elite Finance Professionals, which is located in both Bondi and Noosa. We love to travel off the beaten track and experience life in the moment as much as possible! My goals, career-wise, are focused on building my private practice, Hope Psychological Services, in Noosa and fostering strong relationships within the community.

I found all my teachers at Grammar inspiring and fun to learn from; however, the Guteridges in particular were amazing!

For anyone who wishes to study psychology or become a Psychologist, the best advice would be to make sure you have determination and a strong curiosity to understand the human psyche. If you want to work with people, empathy and one's ability to connect with others will always be your greatest asset, above and beyond any knowledge of treatment."



KARINA EDGLEY
Class of 2008

FREEDOM IN LIFE

After graduating from Grammar in 2008, Karina Edgley studied Business and Events Management at UQ while making the most of college life on campus. After completing her studies, she was offered an incredible opportunity to work and travel with Mike Tyson on his 2014 Australian tour before moving to Italy for six months to work in events management in international soccer schools.

Karina then headed to Sydney to continue her career in events management, before starting a new pathway into e-commerce. Since 2016, Karina has been building her own e-commerce and online marketing business. "I work from home and remotely which allows great freedom in my life to travel, and to design my days to suit me," said Karina. "I love what I do and have worked with some great brands and businesses in different industries which has been great for networking. All my work has been via referral, and it's growing every day!"

Looking ahead, Karina plans to continue growing her business and start her own successful brand using her e-commerce and marketing experience. Her goals include for her business to be running without her day-to-day input, allowing her further freedom for travel around the world, and to plan a family.

"My favourite Grammar memories are of school camps, sport carnivals, and making lifelong friends who I still see and speak to daily." Karina also credits many of her teachers for their guidance and support, including Mr Burnett, Mr Cross, Mrs Guteridge, Ms Kennelly, Mr Linthorne and Mrs Roush.

Through her own experiences, Karina is an advocate of working hard but having fun at the same time, and not stressing about the small things. "Networking and real life experience has been far more valuable to me than my academic results."

Photo: Karina (left) with her Grammar girlfriends since Year 4, Kaylah, Rose (with baby Harper), Eve and Carla. "We annoyed everyone throughout our school years by calling ourselves KRECK".



AIDAN VUOCOLO
Class of 2008

CLIMBING THE CORPORATE LADDER

During the week, you'll find Aidan Vuocolo simplifying tax and accounting for small businesses, but with entrepreneurial spirit in abundance this 2008 alumnus is living life to the full.

After graduating from Grammar, Aidan commenced studying a Software Engineering degree at UQ which he then combined with Finance as a dual major. Whilst at university, he volunteered as Treasurer for two student societies. In his final semester, Aidan embarked on a University Exchange to Milan, Italy. For six months he immersed himself in the local life, formed lifelong friendships and travelled around Europe, including Belgium, France, Prague, Budapest, Malta, Spain and Portugal. After graduating from university in 2014 with Honours, Aidan began his career as an Accountant at KPMG, then at Ernst and Young, and is now currently working at Prosperity Advisers.

In his spare time, Aidan founded a blog and podcast 'Stories Behind The Grind' sharing the experiences of entrepreneurs through authentic storytelling, to help inspire current and future small business owners.

Aidan recalls many stand-out memories from his school days at Grammar, from the Year 8 Sydney-Canberra trip to being involved in the School Musical in Year 12. "Travelling to Dreamworld as a member of the School band, and receiving a Platinum award as Music Captain for the School band competition were highlights," said Aidan. "I also remember kayaking around the lake the wrong way and out of the teacher's sight, accidentally!"

From his experience, Aidan recommends students planning to go to university become involved in a range of activities, not just study, as employers are looking for well-rounded students not just those with a high GPA. He encourages students to put the effort in to foster school friendships after finishing Year 12; to read, write and reflect on a personal level to help develop self-awareness; and to be inquisitive and push the boundaries of what you know and understand by learning from others.

To balance a busy life, Aidan makes time for his love of mountain-climbing. *"I have been climbing mountains since I was 15, and enjoy the mental and physical challenges as well as the satisfaction of making the summit."* Aidan's personal goal is to be a leader who has excelled in his craft within the next year, helping to bring others up along the way, a goal that we at Grammar are sure he will attain!

**"In every situation in your life
you choose your mindset."**

Zachariah Buckley