

Creative and compassionate leadership

We are incredibly proud of the way in which the Class of 2020 navigated their final year and the challenges of COVID-19. During a year where various restrictions caused social distance, Grade 12 joined together in a way that will be a guiding light for future years of creative and compassionate leadership in action.

Anticipation in relation to the release of Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE) results has been less than in other years and this is largely due to the large number of early offers to university already received by students many months ago. Nevertheless, it has been pleasing to speak with many students who have received confirmation that they will be able pursue their course of first choice in 2021.

In addition to top-level results, there are multiple stories of personal growth and improvement which are commendable. During a year where it would have been easy to turn inwards and focus on oneself, our Grade 12 students have consistently had their focus outwards on the School and wider community. We are confident that the record breaking \$75 000 raised to FightMND through the Grade 12 Walkathon is just a foretaste of the many impressive ways in which our graduating class of 2020 will serve and shape our world both now and into the future.

Our congratulations go to the entire Class of 2020, including Eleanor McLean (ATAR 99.7), Nicole Patrick (ATAR 99.4) and Toby Buzzai Wilson (ATAR 99.0) for being placed in the State's Top 100. Also, 28% of students received an ATAR ranking them in the top 10% of students nationally and 59% of students received an ATAR ranking them in the top 20% of students nationally.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the School's staff for the outstanding support they have provided to our Grade 12 and all students. It has also been a privilege to partner with the parents and carers of our Grade 12 during their journey at the School and we look forward to staying connected with students and families into the future.

Richard Ford
Headmaster

\$75k

raised by Grade 12 for
research into Motor
Neurone Disease

**FIGHT
MND.**
IT TAKES PEOPLE

59%

of our students received an ATAR
ranking them in the top 20% nationally



Phone: +61 3 6336 6000
Email: registrar@lcgs.tas.edu.au
Street: 36 Button Street Mowbray Heights Tasmania 7248
Postal: PO Box 136 Mowbray Heights Tasmania 7248

lcgs.tas.edu.au



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**Courageous
Curious
Creative
Compassionate**

Class of 2020: serving and shaping our world



Toby Buzzai Wilson

In Grade 12, Toby Buzzai Wilson enjoyed TCE subjects such as biology, physics and psychology that really expanded his thinking. "Quantum Physics threw a spanner into the works of everything we thought we knew, which was interesting,

but on the brink of scary," Toby recalls. "I could also have spent many more hours in the philosophy classroom with Dr Clements and the rest of the class, talking over ideas."

Support from his teachers was a hallmark of Toby's whole experience at Grammar. He was a key part of bringing the School's mountain bike track to fruition in 2018, with the encouragement and guidance of his teachers. "It was a good opportunity to reach outside the classic definition of 'school,'" he says. "The project gave me and my teammates a sense of what it takes to bring anything new into the world. It's more than just having the initial idea, which can seem small and simple. After learning the many nuances of project planning and proposals, I really appreciated the enormous scope of the project and what it meant to complete such a feat."

After an intense final year of study, Toby decided to take a break before going to university. His interest in mountain biking and love of the outdoors took him to the Tasmanian east coast, where he has spent time surfing, hiking and biking in between his work as a tour guide at Derby. He believes that his education at Grammar prepared him well for transitioning into this phase of adult life. "The academic content I learned at Grammar combined with social skills built up through friendships, sports and class activities definitely helped me enter the real world with confidence."

However, the biggest shift in his thinking since finishing school has been a greater appreciation for giving back to the community. "I didn't get super involved in fundraising during Grade 12 as I was trying to keep all my subjects on my plate," he says. "Coming from such a supportive environment where everyone is behind you to achieve your goals, it can be easy to maintain that self-focus and forget that there are other important things to contribute to. Although I didn't fully embrace the fundraising and volunteering during Grade 12, luckily I made up for it in my gap year."

He encourages future students to try and balance both study and the community service aspect of Grade 12, as the benefits are rich. "With an increased awareness and understanding of others, I feel more confident in navigating my revised understanding of the 'real world'. This is something that I feel no amount of academic learning could have taught me. For those of you planning on heading straight into uni after School, I strongly suggest throwing yourself into Grade 12's fundraising and volunteering opportunities while you have the chance. They will give you a glimpse of the real world that even many jobs can't."

Toby is heading to Melbourne University in 2022 to study Science and Engineering majoring in Biotechnology.



Nicole Patrick

Since graduating in 2020, Nicole has taken up the role of outdoor education instructor at Christ Church Grammar School in Perth, WA.

"The outdoor education programme at Launceston Grammar really was an amazing preparation for this job," Nicole

says. "It provided me with a broad base of knowledge and experience in the key areas of outdoor education such as navigation, hiking, kayaking and rock climbing." She has spent her first year learning the ropes while attaining qualifications in outdoor leadership and leading camps for students between Grades 5 to 10.

Volunteering at Launceston Grammar's annual Sony Christmas Camp for children living with disabilities had a huge influence on Nicole and what she chose to do when she finished school. "The opportunity to give someone the most amazing weekend and give their parents a break is something life-changing for both you and the child you're looking after," she says. "I think that experience made me realise how privileged I was to go to Grammar and to have the opportunities I did. It also made me realise how much I loved working with children and teaching, which has only been reinforced this year."

As School Co-Captain in 2020, Nicole developed abilities that influence her current role, and allow her to lead and inspire the young people she works with. "The leadership opportunities Launceston Grammar offered in terms of sports captaincies and school prefect roles in Grade 12 provided me with the skills and tools to lead groups on camp."

Nicole also appreciated the guidance and flexibility afforded her by the teaching staff at Launceston Grammar. "I really loved that my teachers supported my wish to not go to university immediately. It's rare to find a job that you love straight out of school as I have, so I'm thankful that I wasn't pressured into going to uni right away." Nicole plans to continue working in the outdoor industry while studying science and engineering part time at the University of Western Australia.



Launceston Grammar

EST. 1846