

GRAMMAR

BECKWORTH ALUMNI - WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

JULIA STEWART

Years at Ballarat Grammar: 2006 - 2013

What Art and Design subject(s) did you study when you attended Ballarat Grammar?

I studied VCE Studio Art in Year 12.

What did you enjoy about these subjects?

I enjoyed the teachers. Ballarat Grammar has the most amazing Art and Design teachers. Now that I have left high school, I can fully appreciate the talents of all the teachers. The Art and Design facilities at Ballarat Grammar are also amazing, I feel so lucky to have been given the opportunity to try so many areas of art making.

What skills do you believe you gained from studying these subjects?

A key skill that art subjects gave me was the ability to think for myself and be creative. I now enjoy the challenge of problem solving. I have also learnt to be comfortable with failure when creating, because often when making art things don't always work out. But you will never know unless you try!

What did you create in your Art and Design subject(s) which you are most proud of?

When I was at Ballarat Grammar, I had Mrs Boadle as a teacher for textiles. Mrs Boadle encouraged me to make a dress for the APEX teen fashion awards. I wove a red tutu out of recycled fabric and my best friend Marley modelled it for me. I am still very proud of this achievement and feel so grateful towards Marley and Mrs Boadle for helping me.

What were your biggest achievements in Art and Design when you were at Ballarat Grammar?

I won first place at the APEX teen fashion awards in the wearable art category and my artwork also made it into the Ballarat Fine Art Next Generation exhibition for VCE art students.

What was one of the most valuable things you learnt during your time in the Beckworth?

When I was at the Beckworth all of the teachers really cared about Art and Design and the artworks that we produced. This made me feel as though I could also make a valuable contribution to the community through my art.

What do you do now?

I am now doing my Masters of Physiotherapy at Latrobe University. I continue to paint and make art and I was in an exhibition earlier in the year in Sydney. In the future I plan to split my time between being an artist and a physiotherapist.

What are your major achievements since leaving Ballarat Grammar?

I achieved a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the Victorian College of the Arts in 2016.

I will also graduate from a Bachelor of Applied Science and Masters of Physiotherapy at La Trobe University.

I have exhibited my artworks at Rubicon ARI, Bus Projects, C3 Gallery Abbotsford Convent, Melbourne University and Art House Sydney.

Would you suggest studying an Art and Design subject in Year 12?

Yes, I would. As VCE is a stressful time, it is so valuable to have a creative outlet.

Would you suggest the creative arts as a career?

Yes. A career in the arts can be tricky and at times I have found it challenging to find work, but ultimately, my art practice is one of the most important areas of my life and continues to give me immense satisfaction. I think that I am happiest when I am doing a balance of art and science.



