



LAUREN LAYTON

BECKWORTH ALUMNI - WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



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Years at Ballarat Grammar: 1992 - 1999

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

I studied Studio Arts 3 / 4 in Year 11 and Art 3 / 4 in Year 12. My area of study was Painting and Drawing. In fact, from Year 7 until Year 12 there wasn't a time that I wasn't being creative somewhere in the Beckworth!

What did you enjoy about these subjects?

I loved the creative environment and the supportive teachers. My Painting and Drawing teacher, Mr Bob Brazell made me feel like I could do anything I wanted to do. That encouraged me to think big and explore a range of creative avenues.

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

I learned to take risks with my art making. I learned that it isn't just about creating an outcome, but it is often the process that is just as important. I also gained confidence in my own Art making ability. I realised I wasn't just a painter, but I could also incorporate sculpture and metal work. I learnt to weld and cast bronze sculptures in Year 11 under the wonderful guidance of Mr Stephen Walsh.

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

For my Studio Art Unit 3 and 4 and Art Unit 3 and 4 I created several sculptural pieces made from a range of materials that included bronze, a copper train cooling system, and different types of stone. My Studio Art sculpture is currently positioned in the gazebo entrance of the School's Founders Wing. It is a fountain that promotes messages of peoples struggles and successes.

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

In Year 11 (1998) for Unit 3 and 4 Studio Art, three of my artworks were chosen for Top CAT's (now called Top Arts) and exhibited at the NGV in Melbourne (1999). In Year 12 (1999), my artwork was shortlisted for Top Art's. Within the School, I was awarded a Headmaster award for my Top Cat selections as well as the Jessie Merret Art Encouragement Award. I was also a Len Brookman award winner through the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery in 1999.

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

In Year 11, I broke my wrist playing girls football for the School. It was around the time that I was going through the bronze casting process of my wax sculptures. There was a lot of physical work still to do to pull my sculptures together. I learnt how determined I could be when faced with an obstacle. I always knew I liked a challenge and I still do, but during this time it pushed me even harder to come up with a solution; empowering me greatly.

What do you do now?

I know that if you have creative bones in your body, you can never get rid of them! Currently I am teaching Art to both primary and secondary students at Ballarat Grammar.

What are your major achievements since leaving Ballarat Grammar?

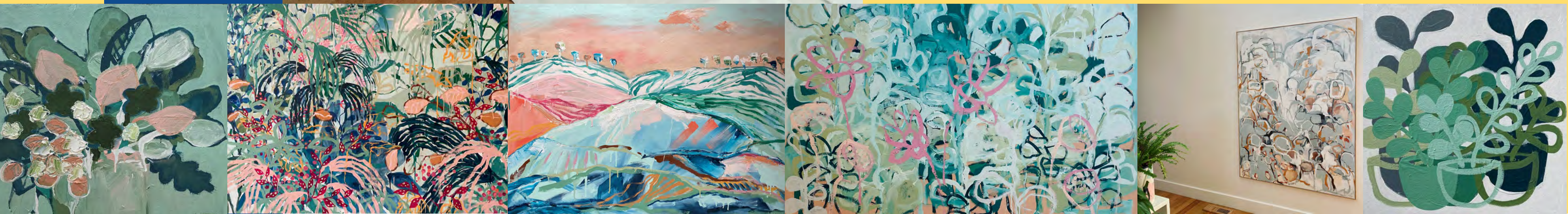
I got my Bachelor of Fine Arts at Federation University and then my Diploma of Education at Federation University as well. In 2009 I came back to Ballarat Grammar to begin my teaching career alongside the teachers who I had admired so much. I have been involved in several exhibitions in and around Ballarat with other creative people in different gallery spaces such as the Ballarat Art Gallery Backspace and Post Office Gallery. I was also flattered to be named one of the top Ballarat Creative Businesswoman of 2021.

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

I couldn't recommend it more! It was such a relief to know I could head up to the Beckworth many times in the week and be creative. It was so good for my wellbeing to have that outlet.

Would you suggest the creative arts as a career?

Absolutely! If you are a creative person, you will always be creative in some way.



1992 - 1999

ARTIST