



# NATALIE CLAIRE-PELECH

## BECKWORTH ALUMNI - WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



**NATALIE CLAIRE-PELECH**

**Years at Ballarat Grammar: 2006 - 2013**

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

I completed Units 1-4 of Studio Art, Photography and Units 3-4 of Visual Communication and Design (VCD).

**What did you enjoy about these subjects?**

Photography was an area that really grew on me. I always had an interest in taking photos prior to VCE and was so excited to join the class. Mr Hurley was very knowledgeable and made the students feel like young professionals. He would always have something nice to say and his approach to constructive criticism helped to push our ideas further. My visual communication classes were a big step for me as I picked it up in year 12 and hadn't completed the year 11 units. Although a challenge, I took this in my stride and now teach visual communication and design to my own students.

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

Aside from my creative skills, I think confidence and independence was a big benefit from these classes. I still reflect on my time in school and remember the time and effort I would put into my folios at home as well as at school. The organisation and endurance required is of a different kind and pushing through two well established and detailed folios in year 12 is an achievement the still fulfills me.

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

I am proud of my photography folio based on the theme of reflections. I investigated many potential directions for my theme but the one that still sits with me today was my investigation into animals. I worked with Guide Dogs Australia, my local animal rescue as well as a bunny breeder to take some extremely cute photos of animals using mirrors.

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

I was awarded the people's choice award at the end of year art exhibition for my photograph of a Ballerina. I took the photo on the WCPA stage and edited the reflection to be perfectly symmetrical. I was also selected from a collection of VCE photographers in Ballarat to appear in the Art Gallery of Ballarat window exhibition. The image chosen was of a rescue kitten from my reflections folio.

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

The most valuable thing I learnt was to appreciate the opportunity we were given there. The art department is so broad, and the skill set of the teachers is very unique. It is not something often found and it provides so much insight and experience to develop skills for future careers.

**What do you do now?**

I am now an Art teacher as well as a VET Fashion teacher. I teach Studio Art and VCD to students from year 7 through to 11. I also teach Fashion & Technology to students from year 9 through to 10. From there, students can choose to complete a Certificate II in Applied Fashion with me over their two years of VCE.

**What are your major achievements since leaving Ballarat Grammar?**

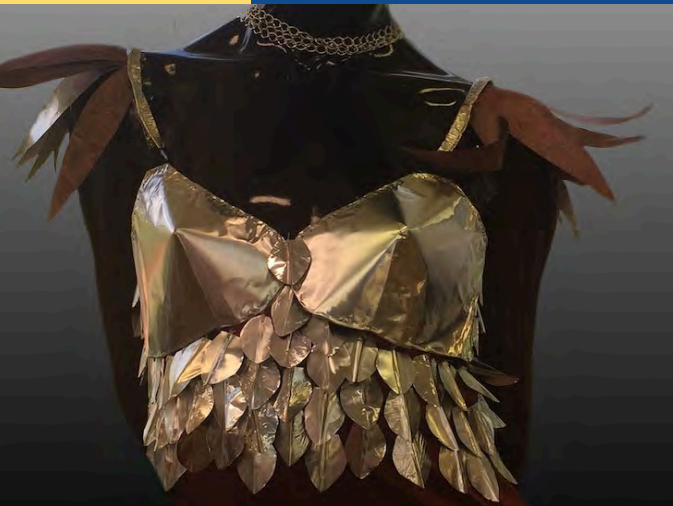
Straight after graduating from Ballarat Grammar, I completed a double degree at ACU in a Bachelor of Teaching (secondary) and a Bachelor of Visual Arts. I began teaching full time in my first year out of university. I have since completed my Certificate II in Applied Fashion and Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. I plan on completing my Masters in Education in near future.

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

I definitely recommend studying Art & Design if it is something you are interested in. I like to remind my current students that even if your career path is different, it is always good to keep doors open. Completing an art subject not only is a good step to a creative career, but it also helps to build skills which will be useful in other areas such as organisation, time-management, independence, and endurance.

**Would you suggest the creative arts as a career?**

From personal experience, yes. My creative arts career has me enjoying life every day. I was passionate about art in school and this is what made me so confident to graduate and begin my pathway straight away. Everybody is different, but if you have even a small passion for being creative then you will no doubt enjoy time in the Beckworth Centre and may find that time is what sparks your future fireworks. It did for me!



2006 - 2013

## FASHION DESIGNER