

# DESTINATION STUDY 2024

IBPLC



**Big Picture**  
LEARNING AUSTRALIA



# INTRODUCTION



The Destination Study is an annual survey sent to the advisory teachers of the graduating cohort of Big Picture students in Term 4 to:

- gain an overview of the cohort's demography
- track student post-school destinations
- see if there are links between a student's destination and their interests, internships, and their Senior Project

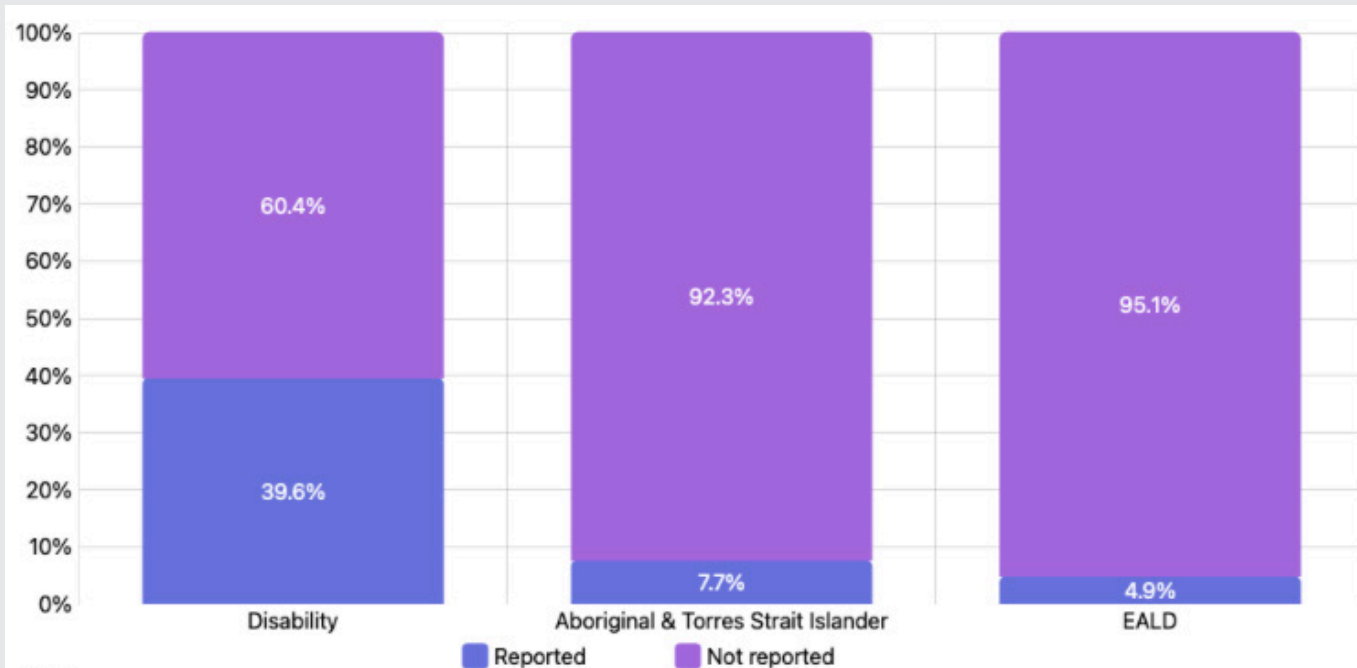
This information is invaluable in providing insight into the engagement, inclusion and transition of our students. It is anonymised before it is used in reporting to the Big Picture Learning Australia

(BPLA) board, key stakeholders (including State Departments of Education) and our national network of schools.

This Destination Study was completed for 326 out of 342 students. So far, 180 students have confirmed their post-school destinations.

## Student demographic information

- 16 EALD students (4.9%)
- 25 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander students (7.66%)
- 129 students with a confirmed disability diagnosis (39.57%).



# THE SENIOR PROJECT/SENIOR THESIS

As part of their work in Years 11 and 12, students develop a Senior Project or Senior Thesis. This is typically completed with the support of a mentor. In 2024, **326** students (93.86%) completed a Senior Project or Thesis.

## The Senior Project

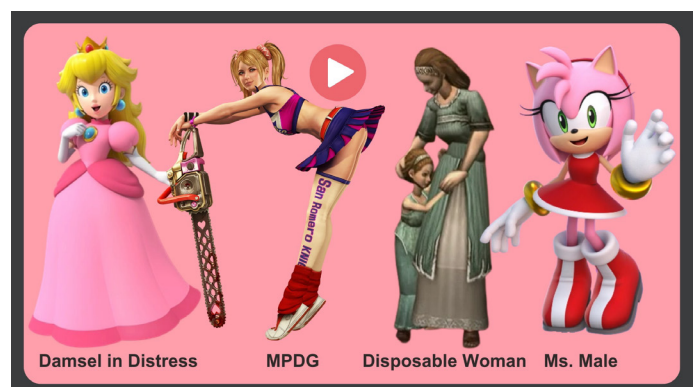
This a long-term project where the student works towards creating a product in their interest area. Senior Projects include:

- Building a video game fully coded in Unity
- An auditioning process for pre-professional dance training and teaching
- Building a YouTube channel and social media site
- Creating a portfolio of music tracks
- A car wrecking mini-business (buying, dismantling and selling car parts)
- Incorporating outdoor education into Yr 5 unit plans
- Exterior design - student alfresco area
- Augmentative and alternative communication devices for children with special needs
- A desktop application for cryptocurrency trading with user-centric features to enhance efficiency and security
- Native plants in Canberra climates: a residential backyard redesign
- Art and design advocacy for the neurodivergent
- Sports podcast (Field of Focus) - interviewing local sports people
- The history of makeup and its ingredients / an experiment to check for bacterial growth in makeup brushes
- Changes in architecture and building design over time.

## The Senior Thesis

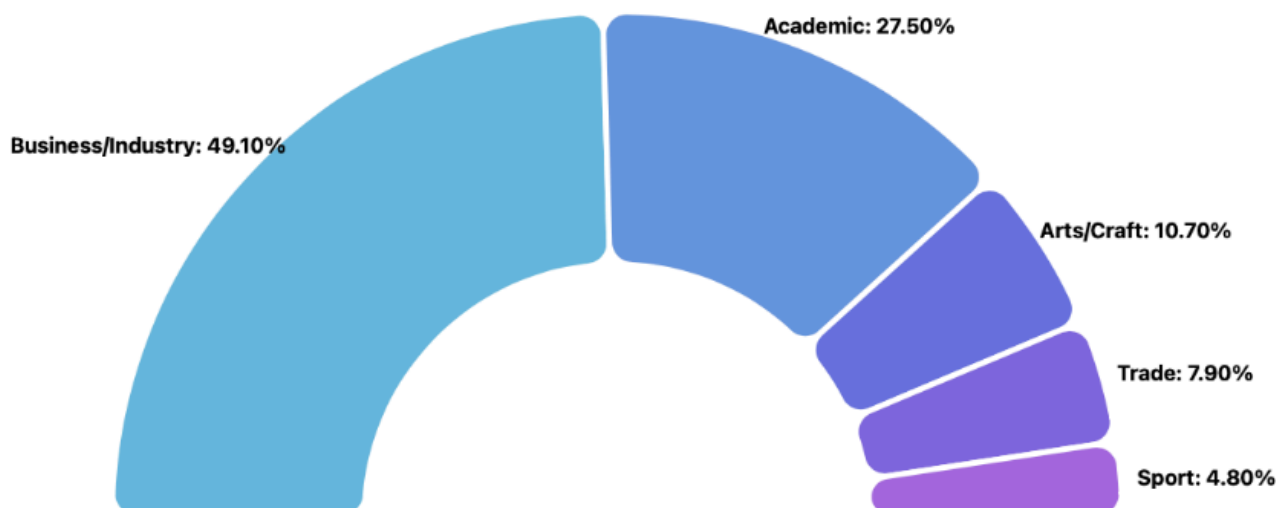
Typically, students on a university pathway work on a Senior Thesis which explores a driving question about a chosen topic. This involves significant research. Senior Thesis topics include:

- Are there injustices in the legal system due to a lack of understanding of the needs of Aboriginal people that are incarcerated?
- A review of the abundance of bees and wasps during winter and potential reasons why anthropogenic effects may disrupt seasonality
- Can cooking lessons develop numeracy in 7-8 year old students?
- Cultural nuances in language: implications for translation, interpretation, and language learning
- Engagement for all: synthesising practical and conceptual design to enhance museum exhibitions
- Ethical treatment of agricultural animals: challenging the neglect narrative in the farming industry
- How can school newsletters effectively serve as a tool for helping young people engage in real-world issues?
- How do cognitive abilities in dementia affect a patient's decision making? How can we help?
- How does the menstrual cycle affect athletic performance?
- The impact of fluoride on the oral microbiome
- A study of microplastics in a river
- Thermal dynamics in ceramics
- The stereotyping of female characters in video games.





# LEARNING WITH MENTORS



Graph 1: The fields and domains of mentors who have connected with students in 2024

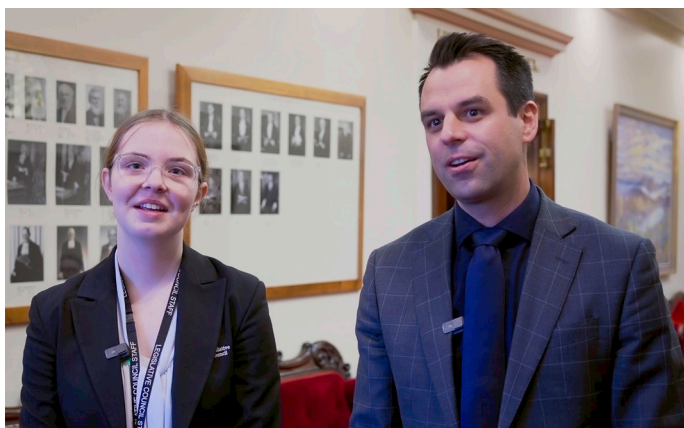
A key feature of the Big Picture Learning Design is connecting students with adult mentors in their interest area. Mentors offer support in student learning by guiding project work, sharing insight into what it is like to work in their profession, trade or art, and hosting internships. They also provide ready access to the latest in thinking, technology and practice.

In 2024, **240** students (73.61%) connected with a mentor during their senior years. **41** students (12.57%) had more than 1 mentor.

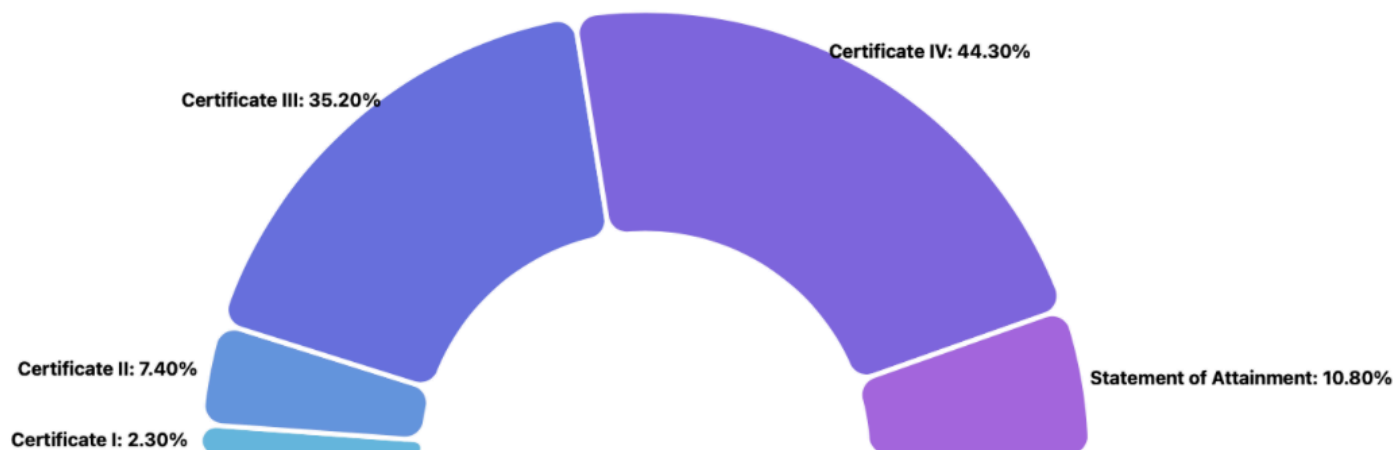
## Internships

A key distinguisher of the Design is learning through internships. Students are encouraged to spend 40% of their time learning out of the classroom in a real-world work environment linked to their interest(s). In 2024, **219** students (67.17%) had a significant (5+ days) internship. Destinations include:

- ACT Legislative Assembly with the Greens
- Artisan Funerals - 1 day per week for 1 term
- Cereal Box Collective - graphic design
- Clayhouse Ceramics, Liverpool Arts Society
- Coastal Orthopaedics and Sports Injuries for 6 months
- Dance teaching at The Training Ground
- John Hunter Hospital for 700 hours
- Landcare for 2 years
- Launceston Toyota for 30 days
- Recreational Pilot Licence Training
- New Leaf Dentists for 2 years
- Peel Horsepower (Riding for the Disabled)
- Permaculture Garden for 2 years
- Tamworth Pet Centre - all of 2024
- The 'Illawarra Mercury' Newspaper for 1 week
- Womens Health Education Network Yr 9 to 12
- Amplify Fitness from Years 10 to 12.



# QUALIFICATIONS



Graph 2: The types of TAFE and RTO qualifications attained by students in 2024

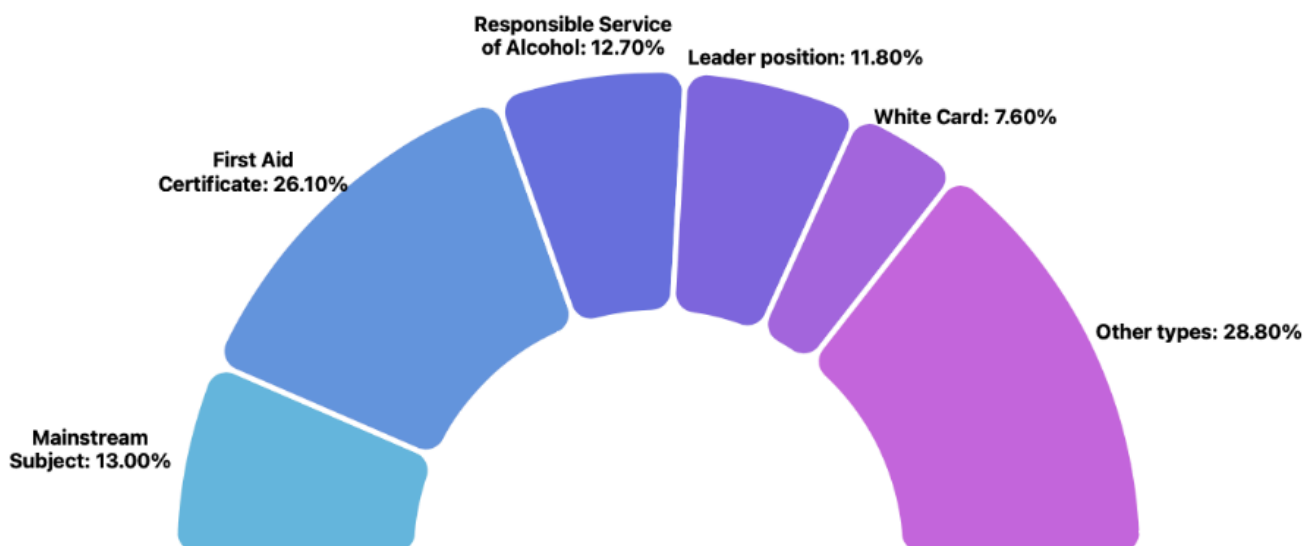
Students can complete courses and obtain qualifications as part of their learning in their fields of interest. These might be obtained through external courses, or by undertaking subjects within mainstream school. Typically, such outlearning is connected to a student's post-school plans.

In 2024, **174** students (53.37%) achieved a TAFE qualification related to their interest. 26 students (7.97%) received more than 1 TAFE qualification.

**208** students (63.8%) completed other outlearning related to their interest. 108 students (33.12%) completed more than 1.

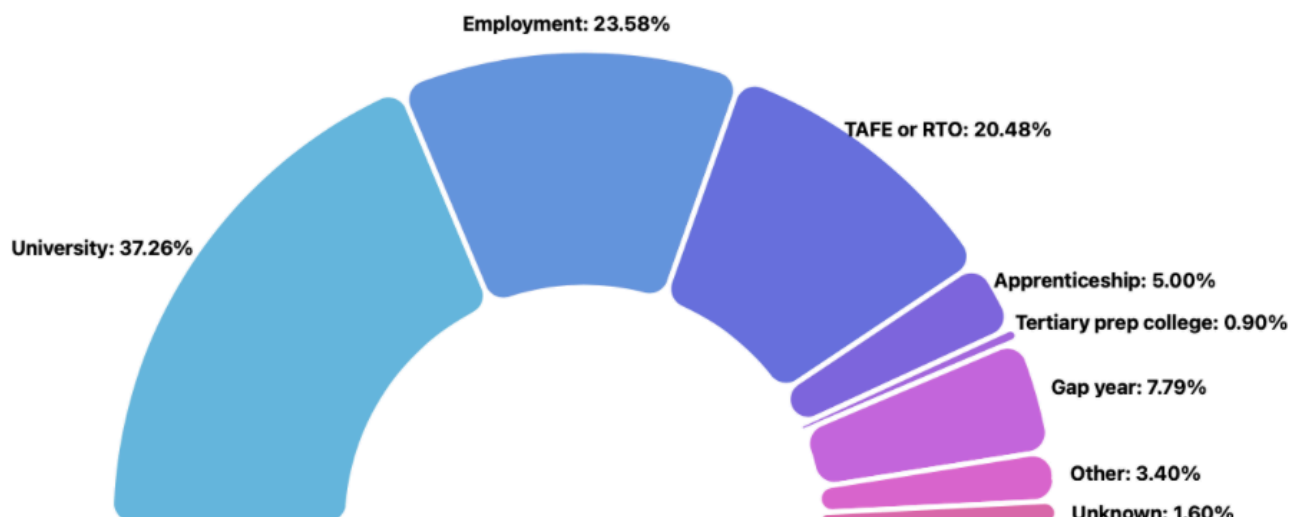
## "Other" includes:

- Barista Certificate
- Coxswain Level 1 Boat Licence
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Food Handlers Qualification
- Food Safety Supervisor Certificate
- Keys4Life (driver safety course)
- Mental Health First Aid
- PADI Dive Credential - Open Water
- Real Estate Licence
- Responsible Conduct of Gambling
- UAV Pilots Licence
- University prep courses
- University Headstart/High Achievers.



Graph 3: Other types of qualifications attained by students in 2024

# 2024 STUDENT DESTINATIONS



Graph 4: The destinations of Big Picture graduates in 2024

In 2024, **253** students (77.67%) have destinations strongly linked to their interest(s).

## Apprenticeships

Destinations include:

- Automotive
- Butcher
- Carpentry
- Construction
- Electrician
- Fitter/machinist
- Heavy commercial vehicle mechanical technology.

## TAFE or other RTOs

- Certificate II in Baking
- Certificate II in Hairdressing
- Certificate III in Animal Care
- Certificate III in Animal Grooming
- Certificate III in Cookery
- Certificate III in Horticulture
- Certificate III in Visual Arts
- Certificates III and IV in Fitness
- Certificate IV in Business
- Certificate IV in Community Services
- Certificate IV in Fashion and Textiles
- Certificate IV for Information Technology
- Certificate IV in Live Production Services

- Certificate IV in Music (Performance)
- Certificate IV in Music (Sound Production)
- Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing
- Certificates IV in CISCO and Cyber Security
- Certificates IV in Networking and Cyber Security
- Diploma in Screen and Media.

## Employment

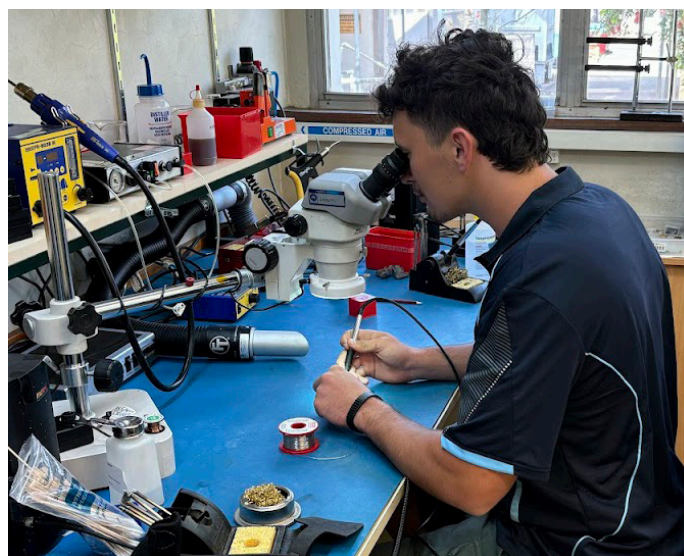
Destinations include:

- Aircraft maintenance at Armidale Airport
- Education assistant
- Hairdressing
- Hello Lemonade market stall (self-employed)
- Machine operator at Borg Industries
- Personal trainer at South West Sports Centre
- Pharmacy assistant
- Rural and animal welfare work
- Spik 'n' Span cleaning services (continuing to run own business)
- The race stables at Kembla Grange.

## Other

Destinations include:

- Contract with the Central Coast Mariners
- Contract with Sydney FC
- Dedicating themselves to writing a novel
- Joining the defence force.



## University

**72** students used their IBPLC for university entry.  
**28** students had early entry. Courses include:

- Bachelor of Art at the Australian National University's School of Art
- Bachelor of Criminology/Law at Griffith University
- Bachelor of Engineering Systems and Industrial Design at Griffith University
- Bachelor of Philosophy/Anthropology at La Trobe University
- Bachelor of Arts (International Aid) at Murdoch University
- Bachelor of Communications and Bachelor of Creative Media at Murdoch University
- Bachelor of Cyber Security at Murdoch University
- Bachelor of Science (Marine Biology) at Murdoch University
- Bachelor of Game Design/Business at the Queensland University of Technology
- Bachelor of Education (Secondary) at Southern Cross University
- Bachelor of Occupational Therapy at Southern Cross University
- Bachelor of International Relations and Politics at the University of Canberra
- Bachelor of Business (Marketing) at the University of Newcastle
- Bachelor of Early Childhood and Primary Education at the University of Newcastle
- Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science at the University of Newcastle
- Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours) at the University of Newcastle
- Bachelor of Nursing at the University of Newcastle
- Bachelor of Languages at the University of New England
- Bachelor of Computer Programming/Game Design at the University of Tasmania
- Bachelor of Music (Jazz and Contemporary Performance) at the University of Tasmania
- Bachelor of Creative Writing at the University of Wollongong
- Bachelor of Computer and Autonomous Engineering at the University of Wollongong
- Bachelor of Psychological Sciences at Western Sydney University.

The Destination Study is reflective of our philosophy of “one student at a time in a community of learners”.

As a result of their interest-led learning in and out of the classroom, our students leave school equipped with the skills, knowledge, qualifications and relationships to confidently transition to their post-school destination.

On the next few pages, you'll see some snapshots of the 2024 graduates on a range of pathways.

You can meet more of our graduates by visiting the Video Gallery on our website:

[https://www.bigpicture.org.au/member\\_videos](https://www.bigpicture.org.au/member_videos)



# STUDENT SNAPSHOTS FROM NEW SOUTH WALES



## JABIN ROMEYN – CENTRAL COAST SPORTS COLLEGE

### Interests:

Business, finance, football

### Senior Project:

Business start-up: Hello Lemonade market stall

### Out-Learning & Internships:

Certificate I in Maritime Operations, football academy captain, First Aid Certificate, 1 day a week for a year at Get Picked Up

### Destination:

Self-employed (working full-time at Hello Lemonade)



## LILY VODIC-SENIOR – COOKS HILL CAMPUS

### Interests:

Visual arts, Australian politics and Indigenous culture, the environment

### Senior Project:

A documentary about the 2023 Referendum from a youth perspective called "Mean Nation"

### Out-Learning & Internships:

Barista course, outlearning at the Purai Global Indigenous History Centre and the Community Disability Alliance Hunter

### Destination:

Bachelor of Fine Arts at the National Arts School



## ANJINI KAUSHIK – FIVE ISLANDS SECONDARY COLLEGE

### Interests:

Law, sustainability, social justice

### Senior Project:

Legal implications of de-extinction

### Out-Learning & Internships:

Kells Lawyers law firm, SkinMedix Australia, Yesterday's Stories video production company, Tara Imaging for Women, Certificate III in Business and a university summer master class

### Destination:

Double degree in Law and Science, majoring in Molecular Biotechnology at the University of Technology Sydney



## JACOB RADCLIFFE – HUNTER SPORTS HIGH SCHOOL

### Interests:

Scouts, AFL (playing, coaching and umpiring), early childhood education, aviation technology

### Senior Project:

The Future of Unmanned vs Manned Aircraft

### Out-Learning & Internships:

Cert III in Early Childhood Education, internships at Kindypatch, Sharpe's Physio and as a farm hand, World Scouts Jamboree

### Destination:

ADF Gap Year leading to certification as an aeroplane mechanic



## SAMUEL GROSS – CANOBOLAS RURAL TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL

### Interests:

Aviation, drones, running

### Senior Project:

What human factors affect a pilot's performance capabilities and how are they mitigated?

### Out-Learning & Internships:

Working on his Recreational Pilot's Licence at Ward Air, gliding at the Hunter Valley Gliding Club, Mathematics Standard, Industrial Technology (Timber) and Physics,

### Destination:

Diploma of Aviation (Commercial Pilot Licence - Aeroplane) and Diploma of Aviation (Instrument Rating) at SFC Pilot Academy in Tamworth



## NATASHA GULATI – MORISSET HIGH SCHOOL

### Interests:

Game design and development, graphic and web design

### Senior Project:

"Digital Dolls and Desire": Exploring Sexualised Tropes and "Sex Sells" Marketing in Video Games

### Out-Learning & Internships:

Attended regular lectures and tutorials with her academic mentor at the University of Newcastle in game design, web app and mobile app programming

### Destination:

Bachelor of Information Technology at the University of Newcastle



# STUDENT SNAPSHOTS FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA



## INDIANNA EOANNIDIS – HALLS HEAD COLLEGE

### Interests:

Music production, creating art, makeup and drawing

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### Senior Project:

Writing and recording an EP (she won the Bella Perry Song Writing Award with her song 'Bad Dog'), completed a Certificate III in Music (Performance)

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### Out-Learning & Internships:

Mandurah Young Songwriters Club, Salvation Army Op Shop, helping with art classes

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### Destination:

Certificate IV in Music (Performance)

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## SHENOA TENG – PERTH MONTESSORI SCHOOL

### Interests:

Cooking, education

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### Senior Project:

Can cooking lessons develop numeracy in 7-8 year old students?

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### Out-Learning & Internships:

Cooking with students at Chrysalis Montessori School, Certificate III in Education Based Support, awarded the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Standard

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### Destination:

Bachelor of Primary Teaching at Murdoch University

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## MAX TAS – SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### Interests:

Business, massage therapy, school cafe

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### Senior Project:

Starting and running his cleaning business - Spik 'n' Span

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### Out-Learning & Internships:

Certificate III in Community Services and Business, Responsible Service of Alcohol, White Card, Food Safety Supervisor Certificate, Barista Course

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### Destination:

Continue to run and expand his cleaning business

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## TIA GELLARD – SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### Interests:

Marine biology, reading and popular culture

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### Senior Project:

How do microplastics impact the Bunbury Geographical Area?

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### Out-Learning & Internships:

Rehabilitating rescue turtles at the Dolphin Discovery Centre, Certificate III in Animal Services and a Certificate IV in Tertiary Preparation (Animal and Marine)

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### Destination:

Bachelor of Science (Marine Biology) at Murdoch University

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## ABDULAZIZ MOWAFY – YULE BROOK COLLEGE

### Interests:

Fitness, electrotechnology, metal and woodwork

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### Senior Project:

Made a pull-up bar and dip station, ongoing fitness plan (exercise and meal prep)

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### Out-Learning & Internships:

Certificate III in Electrotechnology, internships with Carpenter Mechanical Engineering, Arc Spray Engineering and Hillside Farm

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### Destination:

Apprenticeship with TIK Electrical

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## DAVID WILSON – YULE BROOK COLLEGE

### Interests:

Graphic art and design, robotics, drama

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### Senior Project:

Can propaganda posters be used to help design modern posters to help raise awareness of pollution?

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### Out-Learning & Internships:

Completed a Certificate II in Graphic Art and Design, student counselor, internship with All Flags Signs & Banners

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### Destination:

Certificate IV in Graphic Art and Design

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## STUDENT SNAPSHOTS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



### GEORGIA HILL – CANBERRA COLLEGE

#### Interests:

Contemporary dance and ballet

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#### Senior Project:

Auditioning process for pre-professional training and Certificate IV and Diploma in Dance Teaching and Management

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#### Out-Learning & Internships:

Teaching dance at The Training Ground dance studio and performing in a range of pre-professional shows

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#### Destination:

Attending the Joffrey Ballet School in New York

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## STUDENT SNAPSHOTS FROM VICTORIA



### JOEY ABRAHAM – CROYDON COMMUNITY SCHOOL

#### Interests:

Creative writing, cybersecurity, economics

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#### Senior Project:

Wrote a novella based on his experiences with his grandparents

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#### Out-Learning & Internships:

Certificate III in IT and Cybersecurity

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#### Destination:

Joey continues to write stories while studying for a Diploma in Cybersecurity (he plans to study Bachelor of Cyber Security at Swinburne University in 2026)

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## STUDENT SNAPSHOTS FROM TASMANIA



### NATHAN RADFORD – LAUNCESTON BIG PICTURE SCHOOL

#### Interests:

Japanese history and culture, playing music, building models, science and teaching

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#### Senior Project:

In-depth exploration of the cultural changes in Japan

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#### Out-Learning & Internships:

Longford Primary School, Barratts Music Shop, Longford Just Cats, a trip to Japan

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#### Destination:

Bachelor of Arts (Japanese) at the University of Tasmania

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## JOSHUA SEARLE – CANBERRA COLLEGE

### Interests:

Animals, conservation and ecology

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### Senior Project:

A conservation Action Plan for the Glossy Black Cockatoo

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### Out-Learning & Internships:

Certificate II in Animal Care, Junior Zookeeper at Canberra National Zoo and Aquarium, volunteer at the Canberra Reptile Zoo and Taronga Zoo Sydney, Certificate I in Financial Literacy

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### Destination:

Bachelor of Science at the University of Canberra

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## OLIVIA GRANT – LITTLE HOUSE OF LEARNING

### Interests:

Rats (care, health, nutrition and behaviour) and drawing

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### Senior Project:

Designing and building a rat playpen

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### Out-Learning & Internships:

Food Handlers Certificate, training and volunteering at the Social Foundry in Kyneton, work at the Town Roaster Cafe

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### Destination:

Continue working at the cafe with the goal of applying to university to study game design

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## DESTINY WHELAN – HOBART CITY HIGH SCHOOL

### Interests:

Animal care industry, small business, baking, marine science

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### Senior Project:

Working on a Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing

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### Out-Learning & Internships:

Certificate II in Animal Care, internships with Channel Highway Animal Hospital, Raw Dealer, the Greyhound Adoption Program, the Lindisfarne Veterinary Clinic and Hobart Cat Clinic

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### Destination:

Completing her Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing through a traineeship and working part-time in the pet care industry

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## STUDENT SNAPSHOTS FROM QUEENSLAND



### EDEN DONALDSON – SILKWOOD SCHOOL

#### Interests:

Outdoor education and leadership

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#### Senior Project:

Unit plans incorporating outdoor education for Year 5 students

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#### Out-Learning & Internships:

Bornhoffen PCYC, Tallegudgeera Outdoor Learning Centre, Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation, Certificate III in Sports and Recreation, Certificate IV in Outdoor Leadership and Management, First Aid Certificate, Language of Discipline course at Southern Cross University

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#### Destination:

Bachelor of Education at Southern Cross University

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### JASPER WESTON – SILKWOOD SCHOOL

#### Interests:

Fitness, human physiology, football

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#### Senior Project:

Back hypertrophy, Monohydrate/Hydrochloride Creatine Study

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#### Out-Learning & Internships:

Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation, Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation, Certificate III in Personal Training, working with his mentor who is a qualified Personal Trainer

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#### Destination:

Certificate IV in Personal Training first before attending university - Jasper has received an offer to study a Bachelor of Clinical Exercise Physiology at Southern Cross University

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### RIPLEY LEWIS – SILKWOOD SCHOOL

#### Interests:

Automotive mechanics

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#### Senior Project:

Issues faced by women in the automotive industry

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#### Out-Learning & Internships:

Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation, barista course, outlearning at South Coast Customs (automotive fabrication) and Fulcrum Suspension (Automotive Suspension)

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#### Destination:

An automotive mechanics apprenticeship with Fulcrum Suspension

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**ALL OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE DEPICTED IN THESE PAGES HAVE GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND HAVE GIVEN BPLA PERMISSION TO SHARE THEIR WORK AND ADULT IDENTITY.**





employment	Fashion and Retail
University	Bachelor of Engineering at WSU
employment	IT Technician/Admin
employment	Hospitality - working at Rashays
or other r...	Floristry
University	Bachelor of Education (Primary)
University	Bachelor of Social Work
10 year	TAFE
employment	Professional singer/songwriter &
University	Bachelor of Social Science
University	Bachelor of Medical and Health
employment	Seeking apprenticeship as a
employment	Seeking apprenticeship as a
TAFE or other r...	Cert
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**Big Picture**  
LEARNING AUSTRALIA

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The cover depicts Samuel Gross from Canobolas Rural Technology High School demonstrating his passion for aviation