



# ANDREW PATTEN

## Year 12—2009

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### The Good Oil

Since graduating in 2009, former Wee Waa High School School Captain, Andrew Patten has been on an exciting trajectory of education, discovery and entrepreneurial endeavour.

Mr Patten said while at high school he really enjoyed business studies and biology but he believed it was his experience as School Captain that gave him some of the best first life opportunities.

A careers planning meeting in Year 12 with Careers Advisor, Mrs Lindy Widauer gave way to the thought of undertaking a gap year with one of the armed forces.

With Mrs Widauer's support, Andrew applied for and was accepted into the Air Force.

Mr Patten recalled that his Air Force gap year commenced in Point Cook, Victoria where his days started at 5.30am.

"It was pretty much like boot camp. Then after three months we were moved to Newcastle and three months later to Amberley in Queensland for the rest of the gap year." he said.

"The Air Force was the perfect first step after high school and it really helped me to develop my confidence and self-discipline as well as skills for my future.

During year 12, I had also successfully applied to Charles Sturt University (CSU) in Wagga to study Graphic Design, deferring their offer to do my military gap year. I took up the offer the following year. My course, or rather living in a regional centre like Wagga wasn't really what I wanted. I came to realise I was really looking for more of a metro - city experience, so I decided to put my studies on hold and move to Melbourne and get a job in the graphic design field.

Once I got there I realised just how competitive the industry is. I was working part-time but it wasn't leading anywhere, so I decided I should broaden my knowledge and skills further."

Having really enjoyed studying business at high school, Mr Patten decided to undertake a two year Associate Degree in Business at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

Fast forward, he has just graduated from RMIT.

"It was the perfect course for me as it gave me a much boarder knowledge of the fundamentals of business, which was just what I was looking for," Mr Patten said.

Having dabbled with different business ideas since leaving school, it was in 2014 that Mr Patten seized upon the idea of developing products for men to use on their beards.

Sporting a beard himself, Mr Patten found there was a lack of reasonably priced, quality products on the market to help men maintain a great looking beard.





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“I did some research and decided that with initial investment cost being quite minimal, this was the direction I wanted to go. Enter, The Melbourne Beard Oil Company,” he said.

‘I built the website and designed the packaging. It’s been two years now and I’m pleased to say business is going very well. I love the experience of building my own businesses and Melbourne Beard Oil is a full time focus for me, but I have an entrepreneurial mind and I am always working on new ideas. Business is the way I see my future developing and I am keen to continue to grow my networks to build my experience, knowledge and ideas.

“I am a free agent and I like to do my own thing. I love being my own boss and having flexibility. Being in business has given me great opportunities and it keeps my mind open and has me continually thinking what more can I do. But having your own business carries with it quite a bit of responsibility. The buck stops with you.

For me, success is happiness. You can waste your life doing something you don’t enjoy, but that just isn’t me.

“Give it a go’. If you don’t like it, then try something else, but at least give it a go.”

*Article written in 2016*

