



# MARCUS KERR

Year 12—2007

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## Designer to the Sports Stars

It was a pleasure to recently interview former student, Mr Marcus Kerr. Completing his HSC in 2007, Marcus said his favourite subject was Visual Arts. Given this, it's not surprising to learn that he has made art and design his life's work.

## What are your best memories of being a student at WWHS?

"Being a part of such a close knit community and school where I was able to thrive due to the small class sizes and focus of the teachers. Being a part of different aspects of the school from sports carnivals to the Student Representative Council."



## While at high school, what career direction did you think you would head in?

"I always thought that I would work in the fashion industry as a designer. I worked hard during my years at WWHS to achieve this. I enrolled in textiles via correspondence in years 11 & 12 to further help me achieve this goal. I was really pleased to achieve the highest band in the HSC for Textiles."

## Can you tell me about your career path after finishing high school?

"After graduating from WWHS, I gained entry into The University of Technology Sydney for the Bachelor of Fashion and Textiles Design program. This was an extremely competitive course in which to gain entry. In my final year of university, my graduate collection was very well received. It was one of ten collections, from a total of 40 shown in the Industry show at the end of the year."

## Did you have any hurdles early on in your working life that you had to navigate?

"While in New York I worked for Fred Perry in their New York and Brooklyn stores. While not my dream job, it did give me a better understanding of the fashion industry and 'the customer' which it aims to service. Looking back now this was extremely beneficial to my current position."

## What are you doing now?

"I am currently living in Tampa, Florida (USA). I am the Design Associate for VF Licensed Sports Groups (VF LSG), a company within the VF Corporation, one of the world's largest apparel and footwear companies. They own brands such as Vans, Nautica, Timberland, The North Face, just to name a few. I work on the men's design team for the Majestic Athletic brand. This is the on-field uniform provider for all major league baseball teams (MLB). I work on designing and supporting the Designers/Senior Designers in developing fanwear collections for the NBA, NFL and MLB."

## Can you briefly tell me about the journey to get to your current position?

After I graduated from university I worked for SSDS as a tailor at the Navy Base, HMAS Kuttabul in Sydney. At the end of 2012 I wanted to study and work abroad, so I packed my bags and moved to New York for a year.

Wee Wawa High School, Purcell Avenue, NSW 2388

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This was one of the best ideas and one of the most challenging things I have ever done. It pushed me so far out of my comfort zone and I met so many great people, including my wife, Diana. I also got to experience a different way of life.

At the end of 2013 I moved home to Wee Waa for a year and worked a season at the Yarraman Gin in 2014, before returning to the US.”

**What is the key purpose of your current role?**

“In a nutshell... creating, developing and maintaining collections from concept to production. I work in a large company with so many moving parts so I am always interacting with my team and also various departments within the company, from Operations to Merchandising, the Art Department, Technical Design etc.”

**What do you love about what you do?**

“I love that every day I am doing something different. One day I could be working on a photo shoot for a catalogue and the next day I’m watching the New York Yankees at the George M Steinbrenner Field here in Tampa, during the Spring training season. No two days or weeks are the same.”

**What do you think is the secret to success in life and work?**

“Working hard and going that extra mile to show your value to the business and the team. Don’t be afraid to ask questions or be afraid of failure, these are your opportunities to learn and to grow.”

**Do you have a motto you live by?**

“No matter how many times you get knocked down, you always have to get back up.”

*Article written in 2017*

