

Where Are They Now?

Former WWHS graduate, Michelle Combo recalls her favourite subjects as being; English, biology and music.

She said; "I have a lot of happy memories of my time at WWHS including; spending breaks with friends, some great excursions (e.g. paralymptics in Sydney), as well as opportunities to participate in fun activities like dance groups. I also had some really great teachers."

Keen on pursuing child psychology while at school, Michelle spent her first four years after high school at Griffith University (Brisbane) studying a Bachelor of Psychology (Hons).

Michelle says; "I was fortunate enough to obtain a cadetship during my second year at university which led to work experience, and later employment, with Qld Health."

Initially after moving to Brisbane, Michelle found getting homesick was the biggest hurdle she faced; but that got better with time, and many visits home.

"Interestingly, I discovered while studying and undertaking work placements that I preferred working with adults, so I shifted my focus to adult mental health instead of child psychology."

Currently working as a Senior Psychologist in an Indigenous medical centre in Brisbane, Michelle says; "This has always been my goal, to work in mental health and counselling/therapy, especially for Indigenous people. In order to achieve my career progression goals, it's been both about gaining on the job experience, plus ongoing education through workshops and conferences. The key purpose of my role is to provide culturally appropriate counselling and therapy to clients of our service. I love being able to make a difference to so many people's lives. It is very rewarding to see people grow and their life improve because of the work that I have done with them," explained Michelle."

When asked what she thinks is the secret to success in life and work, Michelle was quick to say "'balance'. You have to be able to leave work at work (as much as possible), and make time for fun, friends and family outside of work."

On the question of motivational and inspirational quotes, Michelle said; "These are something I quite often use with my work, a few favourites are: 'No pain, no gain', something that applies to a lot of situations, while 'good things come to those who work hard' and 'thoughts are not facts.'"

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