

# Weekly Career News

## TERM THREE

Tuesday 1 September 2015

### COOL COURSES & CAREERS

**Meet Katherine Flanagan:** Katherine completed the Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Podiatric Practice at La Trobe University, Melbourne, <http://bit.ly/1P8ko9J>

#### VCE subjects:

- **Year 11:** English, Literature, Physical Education, Mathematical Methods, Chemistry, Religion.
- **Year 12:** English, Literature, Physical Education, Further Mathematics, Chemistry.

**What was your course like?** Intense. With the exception of the first year of study, a lot of content was squeezed into the remainder of the double degree. Podiatry itself is fascinating and has such a broad scope of practice, which allows for versatility once you graduate. The course that La Trobe offers is fantastic, with great professors and small class sizes.

Throughout my time at La Trobe, I made friends in which I couldn't imagine my life without. My degree has led me to both study and work internationally and has opened up so many pathways for me.

#### What were some of the best parts of your course?

- **Exchange:** If you get the chance, if you even get a glimmer of a chance, do it. It is without a doubt something you will never forget or regret. In many courses out there it may not seem possible, however, there is always ways around this.
- **La Trobe Community:** Getting involved in such things as "Mentor Programs" or "Open Day" activities is a great way to network (which is basically how you find employment once you graduate) as well as it boosts your resume (significantly).

### COOL COURSES & CAREERS

- **Biomechanics:** The relationship between podiatry and biomechanics is what interested me in podiatry originally. Throughout my degree there was a heavy focus on biomechanics, sporting injuries and surgery. All subjects that are super interesting and have some amazing professors who are recognised internationally.

**Where have you been working since graduating?** After I graduated I was working with a lot of runners in a footwear and orthotic management setting. This job was gained through work experience that I completed during my time at university. I also gained experience in general private practice in regional Victoria. I am currently working in Northern Japan throughout the winter season focusing on ski/snow board boots adjustment, orthotics/footbeds for such activities and injury management.

#### What do you enjoy about your job?

- Versatility – there are so many different avenues one can take from this degree.
- Improving someone's quality of life is very rewarding.
- There are always improvements being made within the health field. It is amazing what can be achieved and how much progress is being made on a daily basis (only challenge is that you've always got to be up to date with it all).
- Ability to work internationally, especially with the sporting population. That is why I studied podiatry originally, having a very strong sporting background when I was growing up and it's wonderful to still be involved.



## COOL COURSES & CAREERS

**Meet Riley Payne:** Riley completed an apprenticeship and is now a Fitter Machinist and a CNC Operator.

### VCE subjects:

- **Year 11:** English, Chemistry, Youth Ministry, Mathematical Methods Units 3 + 4, Specialist Mathematics.
- **Year 12:** Physical Education, Psychology, English Language, Product Design and Technology, Physics.

**What did you enjoy about your apprenticeship?** There are many enjoyable aspects of an apprenticeship including the people you meet and the hands on learning environment. For me one of the most enjoyable aspects was that my employer was very diversified in the jobs that he would take on. This meant there were many learning opportunities and that my apprenticeship covered a broad area of engineering. My employer and workmates were also very helpful with any projects or jobs that I completed outside of work.

I would strongly recommend visiting potential employers and finding out what you would typically be doing as a first, second, third and fourth year apprentice as I know some people who weren't as fortunate as myself in terms of work diversity, learning pace and how much support they received in order to progress at their own pace.

Finding a business that fosters your interests and passions is crucial to your overall experience as an apprentice. Having said this you must also be willing to work hard for an employer that offers this environment, as with any job it is a two way street.

**What are you doing now in your job?** I am currently employed at KBE in Jindera however I have spent the last three months completing my Commercial Pilots Licence theory subjects at Moorabbin Airport in Melbourne which was supported by my employer. Unfortunately KBE will be closing at the end of the month so I am currently deciding which path to take in the future.

I am deliberating between putting more time into my own business ventures, flying commercially or taking a job working for a new employer which would provide somewhat of a compromise between my two major interests of flying and engineering.

## COOL COURSES & CAREERS

One important aspect of a trade is that no matter what you decide to do after completing your trade you will have skills and knowledge to fall back on and support yourself with. This was the main reason I decided to complete a trade and it alleviates some of the stress and fear associated with trying new things and ultimately discovering what it is that you want to do with your life.

**What do you enjoy about your job?** The freedom and diverse possibilities that my line of work allows makes it very interesting, and ensures the learning experience never ends. As with most trades, there are an infinite amount of options and niche markets that can be targeted after acquiring your initial trade certificate. A trade is a great place for anyone to start; it provides a solid foundation to build from whether it is through further education such as university or a completely alternate path. The only limiting factor is quite honestly your own desires and aspirations.

**How did the subjects at school prepare you for your apprenticeship?** My subjects at school have proved useful in many ways.

- **Mathematical Methods** assisted me in CNC programming and fabrication. Understanding plotting tool-paths in three dimensions via X,Y,Z coordinates, calculating materials required in various fabrication jobs, surface area and volumes of particular components. Conversions from different measurement systems are also a common occurrence within my trade. The better your numeracy skills, the easier you will find many of these aspects.
- **Product Design & Technology – Materials** assisted in preparing quotes and proposals for certain jobs while also providing a thorough understanding of the design process.
- **Accounting** is very useful especially if you are considering starting your own business. It will quickly become obvious that what makes you money doesn't entirely happen "on the floor" in the workshop, so having a well-rounded approach to starting your own business is essential and accounting skills come into this quite heavily.

Riley won the 2014 City of Wodonga Red Carpet Youth Awards – Apprentice/Trainee of the Year



**Fast facts about the Bachelor of Biomedicine at the University of Melbourne:**

- Three year course full time. Take 490 students into the course per year.
- Majority of graduates go on to post graduate study with most going onto an honours year.
- There are 13 majors available. Choose your major in second year and in some cases can change your major for third year.
- New majors are Bioengineering and Health Informatics, which are areas of huge job growth.
- No matter what major you undertake, you can apply for any of the graduate health science courses, including medicine, dentistry, optometry, physiotherapy etc.
- Subjects which can assist with preparation for the GAMSAT are built into the degree, <http://gamsat.acer.edu.au/>
- Completing Biomedicine does **NOT** increase your chance of getting into graduate medicine over the Bachelor of Science or other allied health degrees.
- The course is less flexible than the Bachelor of Science.
- Very active student society.
- For information on the course and entry requirements, go to <http://bbiomed.unimelb.edu.au/>



**Westpac Scholarship Program:** Westpac offers 100 scholarships to young people across five categories:

- Asian Exchange
- Young Technologists
- Social Change
- Future Leaders
- Research

For information about each scholarship and to find out if you are eligible to apply, go to <http://bit.ly/1Nln8NS>

**Information Technology Scholarships at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS):** Are you planning to apply for an IT degree at UTS to start in 2016? The second and final round of the Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT) Coop Scholarships are now open and close on 30 September. The scholarships are worth \$46 500 each, <http://bit.ly/1LF067s>

**Interested in Information Technology?** The following are two websites you may like to explore:

- **Future Burger:** The Faculty of Information Technology at Monash University has just released their new website called Future Burger, [www.futureburger.com.au/](http://www.futureburger.com.au/)
- **Careers with Code:** This website focuses on computer science and coding careers. You can take an IT careers quiz, research courses, and read profiles of young people working in IT, <http://careerswithcode.com.au/>



**Worried you won't receive the ATAR to be able to attend university?** Australian Catholic University, Canberra Campus has a new initiative called the "Special Admissions Program". This is for students who will receive a low ATAR or no ATAR due to circumstances beyond their control.

This program allows the school Principal to nominate students who have the capacity to achieve at university, despite not receiving an ATAR or receiving a low ATAR. Applications close Monday 19 October. For information on the program, phone the Canberra Campus on 02 6209 1100 or email - [studentcentre@signadou.acu.edu.au](mailto:studentcentre@signadou.acu.edu.au)



**What does your social media profile tell a prospective employer about you?** No matter what your age, if you are actively job seeking it is essential that you ensure your social media profile is 'job ready'. Many employers now screen potential applicants for positions by doing a Google search of their name and viewing their Facebook/Twitter profile. In a very competitive youth labour market, employers can afford to be choosy in who they select to interview.

If you have your Facebook profile set to public, anyone can access your information, view your pictures, and see what you, and others, have written on your timeline. You may wish to set your profile to private, or set up a LinkedIn profile specifically to market yourself to employers, <https://au.linkedin.com/>

It is predicted that the application process for jobs will move from the traditional paper based resume and application letter to online applications and an emphasis on social media profiles in the future.

Further, in your future jobs you will be likely to communicate with employers, clients, and professional associations via Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter, so it is a good exercise to treat your current social media profiles in a professional way, especially when communicating with teachers via school approved social media and your employer and fellow employees.

For a great video called 'Orange Digital Dirt, click this link- <http://bit.ly/1hr6MLV> Whilst it is an extreme example, employers can make judgments about your suitability to 'fit into' their workplace based on your social media profile.



**What is STEM and why is it so important for our future?** STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and careers in these areas are in demand and essential for future generations. Find out why in this YouTube video, <http://bit.ly/1JGqAWL>

### September Events

- **3 – 21: Explore VU Series**, Victoria University, <http://bit.ly/1TLLDsi>
- **5: Open Day, UNSW**, Kensington, NSW, <http://openday.unsw.edu.au/>
- **5: Open Day, UNSW Art & Design**, <http://bit.ly/1HI25ZI>
- **5: Open Day**, University of Melbourne, Burnley Campus, <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/7saa>
- **6, 9: Open Day**, Australian College of Sports Therapy, Melbourne, <http://bit.ly/1Lfljpo>
- **8: Industrial Design for 2020 and Beyond**, Engineering and Design Information Evening, Deakin University, Geelong Waurm Ponds campus, [sebe-events@deakin.edu.au](mailto:sebe-events@deakin.edu.au)
- **8, 17: At Monash Seminar Series**, Teaching (8) and Engineering (17), <http://bit.ly/1LbfvwR>
- **9: Architecture and Built Environment Information Evening**, Deakin University, Geelong Waurm Ponds campus, [sebe-events@deakin.edu.au](mailto:sebe-events@deakin.edu.au)
- **14 – 16: The Swinburne–ConocoPhillips Science Experience**, Year 9 and 10 students, Hawthorn Campus, <http://tinyurl.com/kno5vhm>
- **15, 17: Creative Arts Information Evenings**, La Trobe University, Bendigo (15), Mildura (17), <http://bit.ly/1NErEMI>
- **16: Science at Monash University Conference**, Clayton Campus, for parents and students, <http://bit.ly/1WcqCLk>
- **22: Astronomy & Light Festival**, Scienceworks, <http://bit.ly/1MXR7kH>
- **22 & 23: VCE Help Days**, Academy of Design Australia, <http://bit.ly/1Dkjoin>
- **26: A Day in the Life of a Designer**, Billy Blue, Melbourne, <http://bit.ly/1OKht6Z>