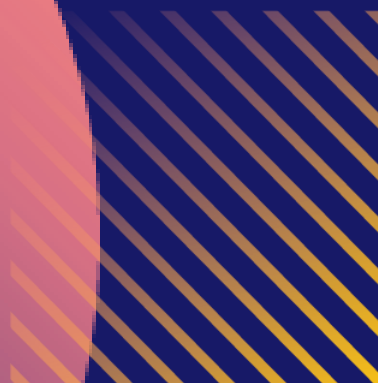


# Careers Evening

2023



**Strathcona**  
GIRLS GRAMMAR



**Thursday 3 August**



# Welcome

Welcome to the Careers Evening for 2023. This year, we have alumnae from a range of fields and career paths attending to meet with you and discuss their studies and career paths since leaving Strathcona.

All of our alumnae will be in attendance for the whole evening and you are encouraged to meet with as many alumnae as you wish to find out about their chosen career path and ask questions to help inform your own decision around options you may wish to pursue once you finish at Strathcona.

Tips for getting the most out of Careers Evening:

1. Careers Evening is a perfect opportunity for you to try out basic networking skills in a safe environment. Don't be afraid of the term 'networking'. Lots of people misunderstand it but really just means connecting with other people. Remember that every single person here tonight was once in the same position as you.
2. The idea behind basic career networking is to find out what someone actually does in their job, find out what they did to get to where they are and understand a bit more about what is happening in the job market today. Some easy questions (see below) can help you to find this out from each person you meet with.
3. You may not get to the end of the night knowing exactly what you want to do, which is quite okay but you will know more than you did at the start of the night. This might help you understand more about the university course you think you might like to study, some of the jobs you think you might like to do, explore some industries you might be interested in, find out about jobs you didn't know about or rule out some things you think are not interested in. All of those things have value.

This booklet contains information about each panellist to help provide some background ahead of the evening.

Examples of questions you might like to ask alumnae in attendance include:

1. Are you doing what you thought you would do when you were at school?
2. What did you study at university?
3. What was your first job after university?
4. How did you get into your current field?
5. What experience (paid or unpaid) would you recommend that I try to get if I am serious about getting into this industry?
6. Please tell me what you do on a typical day at work.
7. What do you like about your job?
8. Are there any specific courses that are beneficial for getting into this field?
9. How do you see jobs in this field/industry changing in the next 10 years?
10. What sort of person is suited to your job?

If you are interested in following up one of the alumnae, please email [osa@strathcona.vic.edu.au](mailto:osa@strathcona.vic.edu.au) and we will endeavour to put you in touch with them. It is helpful if you can tell them specifically why you'd like to follow up with them, for example you'd like more advice about (something specific) or you'd like to ask them a few more questions.





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# STEM



## **Shana Besanko (2006) – Civil Engineer / Design Manager**

Shana completed a Double Degree of Civil Engineering and Science and then commenced on the Graduate Program as a Site Engineer for a large tier 1 builder where she was responsible for working with the design consultants and the trades to construct large commercial buildings. This role required Shana to read technical drawings, program works, arrange the trades and manage installation quality. Basically, Shana took the drawings and made them a reality! Projects Shana worked on as a Site Engineer included high rise office towers, a multi level carpark, retail spaces and a prison. Shana then moved into the Design Management space for commercial buildings and her responsibility is to liaise between the client and the consultant team (like architects and engineers) to make sure the client gets what they want and that the drawings developed are compliant to the required standards, are buildable and have enough detail for the Site Teams to build. It's a fast paced industry and very rewarding as you see the results of your work being built before you!



## **Deborah Holmes (2010) – Meteorology**

After finishing at Strathcona in 2010, Deborah completed a Bachelor of Science at the University of Melbourne, majoring in Physics. Deborah started her career at the Bureau of Meteorology in 2015 as a Graduate Meteorologist, completing a 10 month graduate program which gave her the skills to become an operational meteorologist. After finishing the graduate program, Deborah was posted to Hobart as an aviation and public weather forecaster and continued this role for the next 4 years before moving back to Melbourne as a dedicated aviation meteorologist. Throughout her weather forecasting career, Deborah has gained a passion for Antarctic meteorology and has completed 3 summer seasons as an embedded Antarctic meteorologist, posted at Australian Antarctic stations with another summer coming up this year. Currently, she is an Aviation Service Improvement Lead, managing the aviation training and competency program for aviation meteorologists within the Bureau of Meteorology.

## **Jess O'Keefe (Stewart) (2014) – Biomedical Engineering; Product Manager**

Jess studied a Bachelor of Biomedical Engineering (Honours) at RMIT University, and completed an exchange in 2017 to Clarkson University in NY State, USA as part of her degree. After university, Jess completed an Internship with Chemtronics Biomedical Engineering. In 2019 and 2020, Jess worked at Royal Melbourne Hospital as a Biomedical engineer, including through the first year of covid, which was a very interesting experience. Following her time at Royal Melbourne, Jess now works for a small medical company, Innologic Pty. Ltd. as a Product Manager and now Territory Manager for Vic and Tas. This is a hybrid role working in Urology. Jess does some engineering, some sales and some case support. This includes going into theatre and assisting with new technology working alongside surgeons. Jess mostly works with ultrasound systems, urodynamics and shortly she will be adding laser procedures to the list once she completes her training in Germany later this year.

# Business



## **Victoria Kladouhos (2011) – Accounting/Finance**

Victoria pursued a career in Finance within the Renewable Energy Sector. She completed a Bachelor of Commerce at Deakin (majors in Accounting and Commercial Law) and a CPA registered member. Victoria did some fun work in sales for an energy company that lead her to living and working in Adelaide for 3 months to help set up a marketing office. Victoria started working for Meridian Energy Australia who had two wind farms, three hydro dams and a retail arm Powershop Australia. Victoria was the lead accountant for the generation business', facilitating business partnering with other departments, involved with audits, project lead forecasting, maintaining asset registers and responsible for the settlements and finance lead for Power Purchase Agreements. Victoria took ownership of the organisation's carbon accounting and worked within the business to offset any emissions from a product and organisational perspective. She was responsible for the end-to-end accounting on all assets and presentations of financials to the board. Victoria has served as a mentor to applicants in Melbourne University's Melbourne Energy Institute Hack. She recently assisted the sale of Meridian Energy Australia to Shell/Infrastructure Capital Group and then also to Foresight Australia, ultimately finishing up as their Financial Accountant. Victoria recently started a new role as a Finance Business partner for a steel trading business.



## **Fairlie Tucker (Crozier) (1997) – Not-for-profit sector (various)**

After completing a Bachelor of Commerce (Management) at Monash University, Fairlie has spent most of her career in events and the not for profit sector. She has worked for the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games, travelled to Qatar to organise volunteers for the Asian Games, managed a program for the Pope's visit and many other events along the way. Fairlie also spent a year in Japan and has travelled to the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and other places for work. These roles all led her to work in training and education for the not-for-profit sector. As National Training Manager for St John Ambulance, Fairlie then worked at Red Nose and other small not for profits. Fairlie is now back at St John Ambulance working as National Programs and Partnerships Manager. She has learnt many things along the way and continues to do so. Fairlie believes that no matter which direction you take, there are always things to learn and people to meet. Fairlie loves working in not for profit and seeing the amazing work that so many people do voluntarily in our communities and communities all over the World.

# Business



## **Zoe Brown (2005) – International Business**

Zoe is international business professional, and skilled intercultural bridge builder and communicator. Zoe is the head of the International portfolio for the College of Business and Law at RMIT University and leads all international business development initiatives, partnerships, offshore marketing, and designs engaging initiatives which create new opportunities for RMIT branding and presence globally. Zoe has enjoyed an international career across Australia, Asia and Europe, working in diverse product management fields: buying, category/merchandise management and marketing. Zoe spent the first half of her career in the commercial retail sector working for large domestic and global corporations such as: Generali Insurance (based in Trieste, Italy), Coles group HQ (Melbourne), The Iconic (Sydney), and Ralph Lauren (Hong Kong). After many years in Hong Kong, Zoe returned to Melbourne mid 2018 and made a career change into the international education University sector, commencing her first role with Swinburne University as an International Recruitment Manager. In 2021, Zoe joined RMIT University in the Global portfolio as a Commercial Strategic Senior Advisor before being approached to join the College of Business in Law to develop and manage the International portfolio of the College. Zoe is also a trained Lego Serious Play workshop facilitator where she works with professional teams to turn challenges into opportunities.



## **Louise Bitcon (2005) – Marketing**

After taking a GAP year as an exchange student in Italy and Belgium, Louise studied a double degree at Monash University (Arts & Marketing). This journey took her back to Italy where she studied part of her degree in Italian at the University of Bologna before embarking on a Retail Marketing career working for major global and local brands including David Jones, Apple, 7-Eleven Australia and currently, Mars Inc - home to M&Ms, Mars Bars, Masterfoods, Whiskas and Royal Canin. Over the years, Louise has held roles in strategic brand management, product innovation, with a particular focus on Shopper & Trade Marketing.

# Business



## **Eloise Modun (2006) – Infrastructure advisory**

Eloise's career has taken a few twists and turns. She studied engineering and commerce at Monash University and worked part time for an engineering company in the transport team. Eloise gained experience as a traffic engineer and later as a bridge engineer. A few years later she decided she wanted to try out her commerce degree and was able to move within the same company to the infrastructure advisory team where she worked as an economist for a couple of years. In 2016 Eloise was ready for a new challenge and moved to Deloitte where she is now a Director in the Infrastructure and Project Solutions team. Eloise brings over 12 years multi-disciplinary commercial, economics and engineering insight into the project lifecycle. She focuses on front end investment decision making and is passionate about helping her clients to best allocate resources in an increasingly constrained environment and be able to answer questions such as: Why should we fund this project versus that one? How can we invest in infrastructure to improve productivity and make our society and economy even better? How can we provide stakeholders with the assurance that this project is well planned and can deliver the benefits we expect? Eloise's clients extend from the private sector to all tiers of Government across health, human services, transport, sports and recreation, and emergency services. She has extensive experience in business case development and investment strategy and prioritisation and she provides advice based on a range of qualitative and quantitative analyses to assist with strategic decision making.

# Education



## **Brittany Testro (2011) – Primary Teacher**

Since leaving Strathy, Brittany studied at Deakin University in a Bachelor of Education. After completing her degree, Brittany took the first few months off to work before travelling to America to partake in the Camp America program where she lived and worked in New York State for 9 weeks before travelling around America. Upon returning in September Brittany picked up a maternity leave position at Casey Grammar School in Cranbourne, a school very similar to Strathy but co-ed. Brittany stayed at Casey and learnt so much as a graduate teacher, eventually taking on additional roles of responsibility including supporting the student leadership program. In 2020 Brittany and her partner moved to Japan and taught English for 12 months. During this time they lived in a very small, rural town in Japan and loved the experience of a change of scenery. When Brittany returned to Australia in 2021 she was contacted by the Principal of Clyde Grammar School, a brand new school in the new growth area of Clyde to come and join her team. Brittany worked part time as a specialist teacher and moved to being the first ever Grade 2 classroom teacher in 2022 which she has continued this year. Given Clyde Grammar is a new school, building each year from Prep to Year 12 it is a very rewarding experience to be a part of a school working from the ground up, even though it can mean a lot of extra work! Brittany would encourage anyone interested in teaching to come and speak to her and the others in the education sector as it is such a fun, rewarding and passionate career to be a part of.



## **Stephanie Adamopoulos (2010) – Primary Teacher**

Stephanie graduated from Strathcona in 2010. She is a primary school teacher who has been teaching for 7 years, in a variety of roles including Casual Relief Teacher, Tutor and On Site Supervision Leader during Remote Learning and currently a classroom teacher for Grade 2. Stephanie has a Bachelor in Secondary Teaching English History Majors and a Masters in Primary Teaching and Early Childhood whilst also working in the early childhood industry for 11 years.



# Health



## **Rosie Zocco (Byth) (2010) – Speech Pathology / Academia**

Since leaving Strathcona Rosie studied Bachelor of Fine Arts (Music Theatre) at the Victorian College of the Arts and then worked as an actor/voice over artist for 4 years. During this time Rosie developed an interest and passion for speech itself and the various disorders that can impact speech, the voice and peoples' ability to communicate confidently. Rosie then studied Masters of Speech Pathology at La Trobe University. Rosie now works exclusively with people who stutter. Rosie works for the Brenda Carey Stuttering Treatment Centre, a specialist centre in Malvern East, where she treats children, adolescents and adults who stutter, and at La Trobe University as the Paediatric Fluency Coordinator. In this role Rosie trains student speech pathologists and runs a student-led clinic for children who stutter. Rosie also works as a clinical educator in the student-run clinic for adults who stutter as well. Rosie believes it is a privilege to work with people who stutter and to help them to develop their self-esteem and sense of self-empowerment and she loves working with university students as well. At the end of 2023 Rosie will be going on maternity leave!

## **Cathy Caddis (Moss) (1988) – Allied Health Specialist (Orientation and Mobility)**

Cathy works in allied health, specific to blindness and extreme low vision. In a nutshell, she works with people who are blind or have very low vision and teaches them strategies for mobilising in the community safely, independently and confidently - crossing roads, using trains trams buses ferries, mobilising at kinder school university and work, traveling about Melbourne CBD, hospitals, prisons - wherever the person needs to learn to travel to. Since leaving school, Cathy has had a winding path, starting at university studying a science degree, but loathed it and left after first year. Cathy is Neurodiverse (ADHD and Twice Exceptional), so didn't have a particular career path in mind. She worked for the next 12 years in Executive admin roles, which certainly wasn't her cup of tea, being stuck in an office. She travelled overseas a number of times and when Cathy returned to Australia in late 2000 she started work at Guide Dogs Victoria in Kew. This is where Cathy first saw Orientation and Mobility Specialists in action and realised this was the career path for her. Cathy's course was full time and she figured out how to undertake this study whilst paying a mortgage and the bills. Cathy has been working in this area for 23 years and is employed by Vision Australia where she has been working in this specific role for over 17 years.



## **Liz Sutton (1988) – Academic/medical anthropology and Director of Research large public health service, as well as public public/health project management**

Since leaving Strathcona, Liz trained as General Nurse, worked in Coronary Care/ICU and also completed a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology and English). In 1993, Liz met her husband, moved with him and lived in Jakarta, working for AusAID whilst there. Liz and her husband moved around a lot as he was in the Federal Police – this included Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Canberra, Melbourne, Canberra and now Adelaide. Liz completed a Graduate degree in Literature and Communication then a Masters degree looking at the management of Pain in Labour in 2010. This was following the birth of her children when she had excruciating labour pain – but she was very efficient at giving birth it turns out (her daughters are 22 and 19 now). Liz has had different jobs to fit in with her husband's career – but still manages her own career (and CV!! Liz strongly believes women need to manage their CVs very assertively). Liz's roles have included Senior Project Manager in the Victorian Workcover Authority, a Healthcare Management Consultant at Australian Healthcare Associated and the National Program Director of Advance Care Planning Australia – which supports people to stipulate how they want their healthcare managed when they can no longer make decisions or communicate those decisions themselves. This has included authoring several articles and book chapters on ACP. Liz completed a PhD in 2019 on the Management of Pain relief Requests in labour, and how women develop birth dissonance (her theory at least) because they are told how wonderful nature is, and then they give birth, and nature is not that wonderful it turns out. Her PhD has led to publications in the Lancet (Global Health) and forthcoming BMC pregnancy and birth. Liz has written numerous successful multimillion dollar Category one grants for funding – including for the newly announced trail into Mitochondrial Donation for Monash University. Liz has worked in the Monash Bioethics Centre and retains an affiliate researcher status with them. She is now the Director of Research at the Central Adelaide Local Health Network – where she works to the CEO -CALHN is a \$2.5 billion health enterprise and the largest health care provider in South Australia. Liz oversees clinical trials, investigator led research and seeks to effect policy change to make research easier to do at CALHN so that researchers feel supported and can deliver on their projects. Liz also tries to effect legislative change around privacy and research governance.



## **Annabelle Plant (2009) – Speech Pathology**

Annabelle's career as a speech pathologist is currently in its 7th year. Annabelle works in paediatrics – 4 days a week at Eastern Health (Maroondah Hospital community health) and 1 day a week in private practice.

# Health



## **Madeline (Maddy) Lack (2014) – Pharmacist**

Maddy is currently working in the healthcare industry as a Hospital Pharmacist. After graduating from Strathcona she completed a four year double bachelor degree at Monash University of Commerce/Science, majoring in economics and physiology respectively. On completion of this degree, in 2019 she was accepted into the graduate entry pathway of the Bachelor of Pharmacy/Master of Pharmacy also at Monash University which allowed her post-graduate entry into this degree. In 2021 Maddy finished the Masters portion of the degree whilst working as a Pharmacy Intern at Monash Health. After completing all her studies and obtaining registration Maddy has continued on at Monash Health and is currently working at Dandenong Hospital as a Clinical Hospital Pharmacist.



## **Megan Ha (2014) – Dentist**

After graduating Year 12 in 2014, Megan pursued a Bachelor of Health Sciences in Dentistry/Masters of Dentistry degree at La Trobe University and embraced the opportunity of studying in Bendigo for the majority of her clinical placements. Megan is a member of the Australian Dental Association and has been recognised for her excellence by Monash Health Dental Services and for her leadership of the Bendigo Oral Health and Dentistry Society. She currently works as a full-time dentist at several dental practices across Melbourne with special interests in preventative, restorative and cosmetic dentistry.



## **Madelaine (Maddy) Hubel (2007) – Doctor (Emergency Medicine)**

Maddy is currently working as a doctor, training to be an emergency physician. After leaving Strathcona, Maddy completed a Bachelor of Nursing at Deakin University and worked as a graduate nurse. After this, Maddy completed a Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedic) at Victoria University and then a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Science (Honours) at Monash University. Maddy moved to Albury to work as an intern & resident in Albury Wodonga for 2 years. Following her time in Albury, Maddy moved back to Melbourne for 2 years to do a critical care resident year & then intensive care. After this, Maddy moved to Geelong for 3 years to undertake emergency medicine training. Maddy is happy to chat with anyone interested in not only medicine but nursing & paramedics too. She has had to make a lot of difficult choices over the years about her career, work-life balance, family, friends & mental health, & is willing to chat about any of those things as she believes her experiences can potentially benefit others who are thinking about a career in healthcare.



## **Genevieve Russell (2008) – Clinical Nurse Educator**

After completing year 12 at Strathcona, Genevieve completed the Bachelor of biomedicine at the University of Melbourne, followed by the Bachelor of Nursing at La Trobe. Genevieve quickly found her calling as an Emergency nurse at the Alfred Hospital where she has remained since her graduate year in 2015. Working for a tertiary emergency and trauma centre has offered ample opportunity for professional growth, Genevieve now works as a Clinical Nurse Educator to support the development of nurses entering the emergency speciality. She is currently completing her Masters of Advanced Clinical Nursing through Monash University to support her work in education.

# Creative



## **Shreya Baruah (2018) – Creative Arts**

Since leaving Strathcona Shreya has completed 2 certificates and a diploma. For all of these qualifications, she had to undertake placement and achieve a certain number of supervised hours at a professional workplace setting in order to be competent in all those qualifications. Whilst Shreya had to do placement, she also had to attend and participate in classes. These qualifications really helped Shreya in developing and enhancing her skills and abilities, gained professional knowledge, provided her with more job opportunities, assisted with career progression and built professional credibility. During those years Shreya was studying education. After studying education, Shreya no longer wanted to pursue that pathway anymore as she wanted to head in a different direction that is more aligned to her interest and skills. Shreya wanted to study a course where she could put her talent to good use. She is now pursuing her passion for dance. Shreya is currently studying a Bachelor of Creative Arts at Deakin University. That course was her calling. What she loves about the Bachelor of Creative Arts course is that she can use her skills and abilities. The Bachelor of Creative Arts degree can be personalised to an individual's interest which is what Shreya loves about the degree. Basically, students get to choose what majors and minors that they would like to do. In her case, she is majoring in dance and minoring in social media. There's a variety of options of which way the individual wants to go through this degree. Shreya loves that there are lots of career opportunities with this degree. It opens up lots of doors. Shreya has successfully completed her first semester of her Bachelor of Creative Arts Degree and so far is enjoying it. Overall, Shreya feels like she has found what she wants to do with her life and has a good balance between Uni, work and her social life.



## **Emma Davies (2015) – Motion and Graphic Designer**

Since leaving Strathly I completed a Bachelor of Animation at Swinburne University. My major was in 3D animation but my final year project was a 2D animation as I wanted to study both at the same time. After graduating, I did some work doing freelance animation and graphic design and also some volunteer work video editing for charity. I was also on the content committee at RMITV where I initially worked on an animated short film and later sat on a panel of judges to listen to pitches and decide which future projects to greenlight for production. I currently work as a motion and graphic designer for a multimedia marketing company where I make ads for social media platforms like Meta and Tiktok. My favourite project so far has been leading the motion graphics design/styleguide for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra 2023 season and the MSO Live streaming service UI/website design.

# Media / Communication



## **Rebecca Andrews (1997) – Casting Producer of reality TV shows & freelance travel writer**

After studying Arts and doing a post-grad in Tourism marketing (followed by a few years working/ travelling Europe) at 27yrs Rebecca scored a position in the international media team at Tourism Victoria. She managed the production of hundreds of travel shows, fashion shoots, music video clips, radio shows and influencers to Victoria - including The Oprah Winfrey Show and Ellen, before moving to the PR team to work on campaigns and events such including Australian Open, Melbourne Cup and San Pelligrino's World's 50 Best Restaurants. Rebecca left Tourism Victoria to become a full-time travel writer for Australia's #1 travel newspaper Escape and wrote fun travel stories on Icelandic cruises, hotels, road trips across Japan, and faking a pregnancy to avoid paying for carry-on luggage. Her unique writing style got her a gig on an ABC comedy where she discovered her talents were actually with people: recognising, casting and producing talent. Rebecca has cast VIPs & celebrities but specialises in reality TV including MasterChef, Gordon Ramsay's Food Stars, Survivor, Big Brother, Hunted, Blow Up, Rush, Beauty&TheGeek etc... She is still freelance travel writing for Woman's Day magazine on the side AND has an 18 month old baby. Yes, she is BUSY!



## **Hayley Doran (2016) – Media and Communications / Creative Arts**

Hayley graduated from Strathcona in 2016 and attended RMIT University completing a degree in Design (Digital Media) from 2017-2019. Following this Hayley joined an advertising agency called Town Square in the account service department before moving internally to the production department. Some clients she worked with include Qatar Airways, Tasman Butchers, and Strathcona! She now works at Stratosphere Agency as a producer, creating the Healthy Break and Beauty Break television ads for Chemist Warehouse. She spends one week per month on a film set shooting these ads, with a Cannes film festival awarded director and full crew, including the hosts: Brodie Harper, Laura Geitz and Jo Silvagni!



## **Genevieve Day (2009) – CEO at Day Management & Next of Kin MGMT**

After leaving Strathcona in 2009 I completed a Bachelor of Professional Communications at RMIT. Upon graduation, Genevieve worked at a lifestyle PR agency for 5+ years before starting her own business, influencer talent agency, Day Management in 2015. As one of Australia's first influencer marketing and digital talent agencies, Day Management has become a leader in the space and Genevieve was recognised for this in 2021, making the Forbes 30 Under 30 list in 2021. The Day Management group now comprises of two additional agencies - Next of Kin Management for family talent, and a TikTok-specific agency Day Creators.





## **Catherine Symons (1991) – Judge of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia**

Catherine graduated from Monash Law in 1999 and has in the years since spent time in private practice as a lawyer and 16 years as a barrister at the Victorian Bar. Catherine was appointed as a judge of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia in July 2021.



## **Alex Finemore (2006) – Barrister**

Since leaving school, Alex completed a double degree at Monash University of Arts (Psychology) and Law. Alex studied at the Prato Campus in Italy and travelled Europe during her studies. She also worked part-time in hospitality and retail. Alex gained experience working with the Honourable Linda Dessau AC (now Governor of Victoria) and the Honourable Nahum Mushin in the Family Court of Australia, and also worked as a legal assistant. After graduating, Alex completed a traineeship with Richmond & Bennison Lawyers and gained experience in a broad range of areas before focussing on family law. Alex worked as a Senior Associate at two boutique family law firms in Melbourne. She is a founding member and past-President of Bottled Snail Productions which is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to providing members of the legal profession with creative opportunities. Alex has produced and performed in a number of productions. Alex joined the Victorian Bar in 2020 at the commencement of the COVID-19 pandemic. She has taken chambers at Owen Dixon Chambers East, and accepts briefs to appear in and advise on matters involving all aspects of family law.



## **Laura Loftus (2004) – Associate General Counsel and Company Secretary**

Laura completed a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) at Monash University after year 12. Laura started her career working at DLA Piper (formerly DLA Phillips Fox) as a graduate lawyer, gaining experience working in corporate law, including mergers and acquisitions, advising listed companies and not-for-profit organisations on governance requirements and completing secondments at Toyota and Mondelez (formerly Kraft/Cadbury). After 5 years at DLA Piper, Laura moved to an in-house legal role at Mayne Pharma, an ASX-listed pharmaceutical company. Laura's role has changed and expanded over her time at Mayne Pharma – today she advises on a range of legal matters, as well as supporting the Board and Management team in her role as Company Secretary. In 2022, Laura spent an extended period of time in the US, leading a US\$475m transaction to divest the company's manufacturing facility in Greenville, North Carolina.

## Humanities / Other



### **Lauren Hardiman (2007) – Archaeologist**

Lauren attained a Bachelor of Arts (majoring in Archaeology & Ancient History) with Honours in Indigenous Cultures & Histories, and a Bachelor of Visual Arts (Photomedia) from Monash University. She also has a graduate certificate of Environment from Macquarie University. Lauren has been working as an archaeologist and heritage consultant in VIC for the past (almost) 10 years. Lauren spent 2 years in London UK as a Project Manager at a commercial archaeological unit called MOLA, managing a portfolio of archaeological projects which explored sites with Prehistoric, Roman, Mediaeval and Post-Mediaeval remains. Lauren returned to Melbourne 3 years ago and is now an Associate Archaeologist at Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd. In this role, Lauren advises on approvals pathways to fulfil legislative requirements for Aboriginal and historical heritage, and undertakes assessments for clients in rail, water, Defence, power and government markets. Since Nov 2022, Lauren has also been the Section Leader (acting) for Heritage ANZ, leading a team of 50 heritage professionals. This section sits within Environmental Solutions and Lauren and her team work closely with other environmental specialists, engineers and project managers. Lauren loves her job but it wasn't a pathway she expected to take when she left school, mainly because she didn't know it was a career option. It's proven to be a really interesting career which has required her to use a combination of communication, research, analytical and problem solving skillsets, as well as developing capabilities in project management, people management and commercial strategy. Lauren would be honoured to share her journey with other Strathconians and to answer any questions they have - including about archaeology, heritage consultancy, tips for working overseas in the career you want, or even what it's like to work as an environmental specialist at a very large and male dominated engineering company.



### **Lauren Watson (2010) – Environmental and Sustainability Management**

Lauren studied a Bachelor of Environments at Melbourne University and has since worked across infrastructure construction projects including roads, ports, rail and tunnelling in New South Wales and Victoria. At the moment she is an Environmental Manager on the North East Link Project delivering tunnels, bridges and roadworks between Watsonia and Bulleen in Melbourne. Lauren has worked in the areas of Environmental Management and also Sustainability, working to deliver the most sustainable infrastructure that we can.

# Humanities



## **Rachael Coulthard (2014) – Languages – Multicultural Communication - Translation**

After leaving Strathcona in 2014, Rachael promptly set off to France for a gap year. During this time, she worked as an Au Pair in Paris for six months, followed by six months of independent travel across Europe. On returning to the UK, Rachael enrolled at Monash University to pursue a Bachelor of Art (Languages) degree. With French as her major, she successfully completed my undergraduate studies. Motivated by her love for language and communication, Rachael continued her academic journey at Monash University, where she achieved a Master of Interpreting and Translation Studies. As part of her education, Rachael undertook an internship at Ethnolink, a translation agency based in Melbourne at the time. Luckily, she secured full-time employment after the internship and played a vital role in the transformation of Ethnolink into a comprehensive multicultural communication agency. Throughout her three years at Ethnolink, Rachael took on various responsibilities. Rachael established and expanded a marketing team, contributed to business development, and most recently led the development of a new division called Multicultural Communications. This involved close collaboration with government communication professionals to promote best practices in engaging with Australians with limited English proficiency. In her current role, as Head of Multicultural Communications, Rachael provides strategic advice to clients based on community consultation, ensuring that diverse voices are heard and involved in government communications. Additionally, Rachael holds a NAATI certification as a translator and works as a freelance translator in her spare time. Primarily, she provides certified translations of personal documents, although she also undertakes ad hoc larger projects with a particular interest in medical translation.



## **Isabella (Bella) Romanella (2015) – Property Development and Construction**

Upon graduating Strathcona in 2015, Bella was granted the opportunity to study at The University of Melbourne. Her academic endeavours included a Bachelors' Degree in Environments, majoring in Architecture, as well as a Masters' Degree in Property. Bella was awarded the Dean's Honours List in her Masters' Degree for academic excellence in the areas of both Property Development and Construction. Although her initial pursuit no longer lies in the architectural realm, her experience at Point Architects has continued to be invaluable over the course of her career, having broadened her knowledge base and in turn, served her as a basic primer that she has translated into her Masters' Degree, and current role as an Assistant Development Manager at Citinova. There, Bella's tasks primarily relate to undertaking acquisition analysis, feasibility studies, delivery of infrastructure packages, town planning applications, sales and leasing, as well as investor management, and construction. Bella has truly flourished within both her academic and career endeavours, though note that a lot of this, she owes to her secondary schooling. Strathcona has certainly shaped the woman she is today; fostering her to become a greater thinker in solving the problems of tomorrow.



# Notes

# Notes



# Strathcona

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**P** +61 3 8779 7500

**E** [admin@strathcona.vic.edu.au](mailto:admin@strathcona.vic.edu.au)

**[strathcona.vic.edu.au](http://strathcona.vic.edu.au)**

Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar School  
ABN 75 073 413 626 | CRICOS00577C