



## MERCY COLLEGE ALUMNI

Where are they now?

*Introducing:*

*Anna Quirante  
Class of 2016*



*Greetings Anna!*

*Thank you for sharing your story!*



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### Where are they now?

*Do you remember what it was like at college and when you left?*

*During my time as a student, I enjoyed being involved with extra-curricular activities particularly with performing arts, College Musicals, Drama plays, and generally enjoyed the day-to-day classes and walking around the grounds at breaks.*

*I did enjoy too, getting my homework completed during breaks along with listening to music*

*Did you set out with a career plan?*



*I felt I was indecisive on what I wanted to do. I entered the VCAL program and undertook a VET course at Kangan doing Applied Fashion. The skill set I gained from the course was extensive including the amount of planning it takes to make one garment, the materials that are needed, the availability of fabrics, testing the durability of the fit, and the detailed portfolio that I needed to create for assessment. It was quite extensive.*

*However, after I completed my year 12, I did not pursue a career in the fashion industry. Instead, I chose to study a Diploma of Theatre Arts at Melbourne Polytechnic Prahran.*

*The studies involved the history of theatre, the techniques, the marketing aspects, backstage organisation, and the on-stage presence.*

*The collaboration with other groups including live production, costume and makeup, was very exciting and informative.*

*After completing my theatre arts in 2017, the years from 2018 to end of 2022, were difficult as I struggled to secure employment. It was a challenging time, especially during the COVID pandemic in 2020 and 2021.*

*It felt very depressing and very tough to endure, however, what assisted to help me get through it, was my support teacher at school, Kellie Frith, who was instrumental in guiding me to where I am now.*

*I am working as a duty manager at Vinnies Reservoir, and I am absolutely loving it! I am mainly responsible for the day-to-day operations, managing the volunteers, and customer relations.*

*What were the significant milestones that have impacted your life journey so far?*





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*Where has your career path taken you in terms of connecting with wider organisations, meeting people of varying cultures; locally and internationally?*

*My line of work has connected me to many people from different cultures, and people from within the organisation.*

*Let me tell you about the day-to-day operations. This can involve doing a walk through the whole store to oversee what is required to be done for the day. The screening process for donations involves checking and sorting quality before it is priced and put on the shop floor. The customers who come through the shop are from all walks of life and are interesting! They leave happy when secure a bargain or something unusual or unique.*

*It's amazing to connect with people from different cultures. It opens up opportunities to learn more about their way of life and how treating people with respect goes a long way to developing positive relationships.*

*Ps : My tip for op-shopping is if you see something you like, get it now because once it's gone, it's gone!*

*Have you maintained any school friendships?*



*I have a very special friend whom I treasure so much. Natalie Taylor Class of 2014. We have been friends for 10 years. I met her when we both cast members in the College musical Hairspray in 2014.*

*Just so special to have a connection with a person since college.*

*It has been 10 years of our friendship. She and I have kept in contact with each other and updated each other on anything interesting happening in both our lives, both career and life.*

*We'll be planning something soon to celebrate our 10-year friendship*

*What's next for you?*

*I'm enjoying my career and life now, but who knows what the future will bring?*

*Life's too short, cherish every moment and have fun!*





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### Where are they now?

*What would be a message you would like to share with current students?*

*I would say to current students to step out of your comfort zone and challenge yourself because until you do, you won't know what you are capable of, and this is important for growth.*

*This is coming from experience from someone who was extremely introverted and is now in a management role.*

