

Life Beyond ST ANDREW'S



INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- In the swim with Will
- A musical journey with Jazz



Will Layton Class of 2021



Will graduated St Andrew's in 2021 and continues with his very busy swimming career by moving to America on a full athletic and academic scholarship at St Thomas University, America. In 2021 the College awarded Will with the peer-nominated award - *Ampol Best All Rounder*.

What year did you graduate?

2021

What are you currently studying?

I am majoring in Computer Science at St Thomas University, Miami, Florida, USA.

What has been your biggest success so far?

My biggest success has been recovering from an ACL reconstruction and becoming a collegiate athlete within one year and two months. I ruptured my ACL in June 2021 playing volleyball for the STACC team.



Unfortunately, this occurred one month before I was due to compete at the Australian Olympic Swimming Trials in Adelaide. With the support of my parents, coach, physio, swimming club, family, friends and the teaching staff at St Andrew's, I could get through the rehabilitation process and complete Year 12. I could not be more thankful for what I was able to achieve and I was very humbled and honoured to be recognised by my peers and awarded the Ampol Best All Rounder Award.

I was cleared to swim in January of 2022 and competed in the Australian Open Nationals in May 2022, achieving personal best times in all my races. As an 18-year-old, I held the following rankings in Australia for Long Course Swimming (taken from Swim Central 18/9/22):

- 50m Butterfly – 6th in Queensland, 7th in Australia
- 100m Butterfly – 7th in Queensland, 10th in Australia

I graduated with an ATAR of 93, which converted to a Grade Point of Average (GPA) in the USA of 3.8/4.0 allowing me to successfully apply for entry to St Thomas University in Miami Florida. I am now studying on a swimming and academic scholarship as a collegiate athlete on the "Bobcats" swimming



team.

Who are your idols in the swimming world? Have you met them?

Cameron McEvoy was one of my idols growing up. I met him at the FNQ Coral Coast Invitational in 2012 where I competed in the handicapped event to race against the Olympians. Cameron is a three-time Olympian and won medals at Junior World Champs, Olympics in 2012, World champs in 2015, Commonwealth games in 2014 and pan-pacific champs in 2016. As well as his great achievements in the pool he also studied Physics and Mathematics, and he is a great role model, as were the other swimmers including Chris Wright that came to support this event.

How do you balance study with the demands of your athletic scholarship?

I don't find it too hard after many years of swimming 8 – 10 sessions a week and managing my time with study. I have learned to be productive in my spare time between classes and training. Each morning I come back from training, eat my second breakfast, have a quick power nap, and then go to the library to study and complete assignments for 1-2 hours before my classes start for the day. Then at the



end of the day if I have something due that night I will work on it. Otherwise, I use the afternoons/nights after training to stretch, rest and relax with my dormitory and swim mates. Swimming has been a great sport to improve my time management skills.

Who was your role model at St Andrew's?

I don't think I necessarily had one role model as there were multiple teachers who provided me with different perspectives, support and mentoring. My Homeform Teacher Mr Ed Gray – or as we knew him "our bearded school mum" – helped me to keep focused and ingrained the ideas of being punctual and polite in every class and to everyone we meet.

The combination of Hospitality Teachers (Chef Sam and Chef Brandon) were always great to joke with and were always super friendly as well as teaching me the great life skill of cooking. The environment at St Andrew's helped to nurture me to grow as an individual and provided me with strong moral values to apply to all aspects of my life.

I also had an older brother, Oliver, who attended the College who I looked up to and was a great example for me both in the pool and academically.

What is your advice for current graduating Year 12 students?

Keep your head down and focus on what you want and where you want to go after graduation. Even if you don't

get the results you want through school, there's always another path and people around you willing to support and help you through your endeavours.

Make sure you involve yourself in all the schooling events that go on inside and outside school with your friends, as the year will fly by. You will only regret the opportunities you didn't take. I was fortunate to make a wonderful group of friends that will be friends for life, no matter where I am.

What does the future in 5 years look like for Will?

It's hard to say right now. I plan to complete my university degree in Computer Programming and make the most of my opportunities while studying and swimming overseas in Miami.

"The environment at St Andrew's helped to nurture me to grow as an individual and provided me with strong moral values to apply to all aspects of my life."



Micaela Lukac

Class of 2017



Micaela graduated St Andrew's in 2017 and continued to JCU to complete a Bachelor of Advanced Science. One of Micaela's biggest successes to date is the opening of her business – Mucho Love, an Argentinean café in Edge Hill.

What year did you graduate?

2017

What do you love about your career?

I love that I've found a way to share my Argentinean background in a friendly and inviting environment where people can meet to share stories and have a lovely time.

What has been your biggest success so far?

My biggest successes since school have been graduating from JCU with a Bachelors Degree in Advanced Science and building a strong, beautiful relationship with my partner, with whom I've now opened a new business during the pandemic.

In addition, we have expanded our café's potential by obtaining our liquor license and opening two nights a week for tapas, Argentinean wines and desserts and hosting events such as Latin Night, which we hosted in October.

How would you describe a typical day in the life of Micaela Lukac?

Making delicious Peruvian coffee while getting to know my customers is a big part of my days. I create an environment for people who love catching up while experiencing different types of food.

I also like to keep active by going on hikes or to the gym as often as possible and love to think of new ideas to help the Café grow daily.

What are the most rewarding and difficult aspects of your work?

The most rewarding thing is meeting new people every day. Getting to know customers and building new relationships with the community is something very special, for which I am thankful.

A more difficult aspect of my work is working around all the constant changes our industry faces, for example, stock availability and price increases.

What do you do to maintain your professional development?

I am always working on improving my organisation skills to balance running the café, spending time with my family and friends and having some rest time.

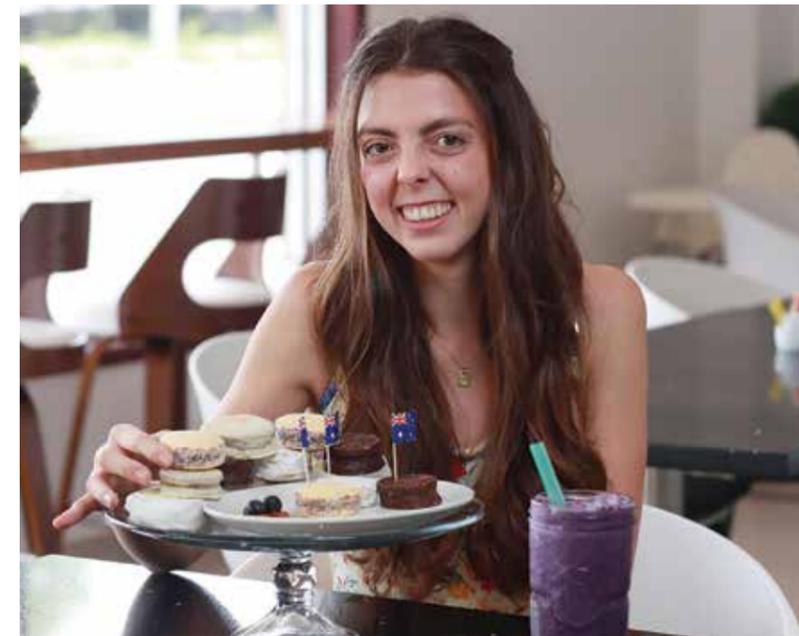
I am currently thinking of taking an Latte Art course to further develop my barista skills to create the best coffees possible.

Can you think of a really funny situation you've had while working?

Many funny and memorable situations come to mind. I always love laughing with our regular customers and we often seem to have inside jokes unless, of course, they sit outside (haha).

What would you do if you weren't in your current career?

I would love to work with biosecurity and do research on invasive insects relevant to my advanced science degree. A possible career change for the future!



"Ms Johnston.... made me appreciate everything we were learning in science.... and made me realise it isn't necessary to pick one career for the rest of our life."

Who was your role model at St Andrew's?

Ms Janet Johnston. She always made me appreciate everything we were learning in science. Most importantly, she also shared with us her past career paths, which made me realise it isn't necessary to pick one career for the rest of our life. We are free to change and learn new skills and new careers if we wish to. I choose to view every job as a new adventure which teaches me new ways of thinking and performing tasks that will allow me to always grow as a person.

What is your advice for current graduating Year 12 students?

Always put your best efforts into your goals but never become so focused

Images: supplied / Cairns Post

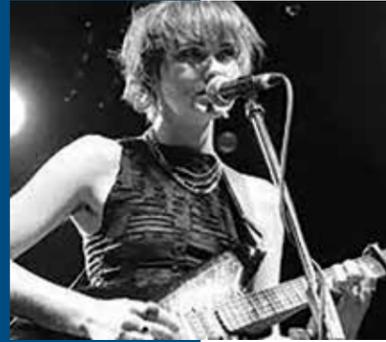
on the end goal that you miss out on so many other wonderful opportunities along the way. Every 'plot twist' will lead to great and unpredictable possibilities if you allow yourself to be flexible and try new things.

What does the future in 5 years look like for Micaela?

I can never answer this question with certainty, as I always strive to have an open mind to new opportunities. I would love to see Mucho Love Café grow in the future and continue to share delicious food with the community. Having a family orientated café, I also see myself starting my own family in the future and passing on everything I learn from this amazing experience and any future experience.



Maggie Slater Class of 2018



Maggie graduated from the College in 2018 and is currently in her third year of a Bachelor of Arts (Creative Writing and Politics) and a concurrent Diploma of Languages (French). Maggie shares her journey so far and how she balances study, a busy music career and an upcoming international move to Montreal.

What year did you graduate?
2018

What do you love about your chosen pathway?

I'm currently in my third year of a Bachelor of Arts (majoring in Politics and Creative Writing) and a concurrent Diploma of Languages (French) at the University of Melbourne. These degrees, alongside my music, allow me to explore all the different areas of academics and creativity that interest me simultaneously.

I often find people are confused by the combination of things that I study but to me it makes perfect sense and they all inform one another.

What has been your biggest success so far?

Organising my first headline tour all on my own, especially right after the pandemic. It took so much work and time but it was so worth it.

How would you describe a typical day in the life of Maggie Slater?

If I have classes, I'll usually be scrambling to finish my readings on the tram to uni and then staying at the library until it closes, usually taking a break to have coffee with a friend or sitting in the sun. When I have a day off I'll usually be writing (either songs or pieces for Farrago, the University magazine that I'm a staff writer for), reading or hanging out with my housemates.

What are the most rewarding and difficult aspects of your musical journey?

The most rewarding aspects of music for me are recording and performing. It's the best feeling in the world to hear all my ideas and experiences come together in a coherent and finalised

form through a finished song. Then getting to perform for people and share those intimate moments and have them feel something from hearing about them is just the cherry on top. Vulnerability does pay off.

The most difficult aspects are all the behind the scenes. There is admin and paperwork that need to be completed, social media, emailing, etc. I've been fortunate for almost all of my major projects to be funded by creative arts grants but they require so much work and can take the joy out of things. I can't wait until I have a manager. This will allow me to focus purely on being creative again.

What would you do if you weren't in your current career?

It's hard because I honestly wouldn't say I have a career yet. Obviously if I didn't make music, I would just keep studying because I love it. But if I had to pick something different, maybe being a florist? I love flowers and I think being around them all day would be really lovely and calming. Or I'd work on a dive boat so I could dive for free every day; that'd be pretty incredible.

Who was your role model at St Andrew's?

Two teachers come to mind.

Mr Richard Hafer isn't at St Andrew's anymore, but I had him for English and English Extension. He was the first teacher who I felt pushed me in English and told me that it was something I could study and pursue on its own (as opposed to doing law or education). Mr Hafer was also extremely open about his experiences with mental illness which I cannot put into words the value of. It was extremely brave and had such a lasting impact, not just on students like myself who have mental health

conditions but everybody in the class. To destigmatise mental illness, we must talk about and normalise it. Mr Hafer was one of the first people I knew to do this and it's something I try my best to continue doing in my life.

The incredible Mrs Shaneen Mason. Her passion and commitment to the Arts and her students were unforgettable. Mrs Mason made every Drama class and musical rehearsal a fun and safe space for students. Those times were easily the most carefree and creative I felt at St Andrew's.

How do you combine schoolwork with your music schedule?

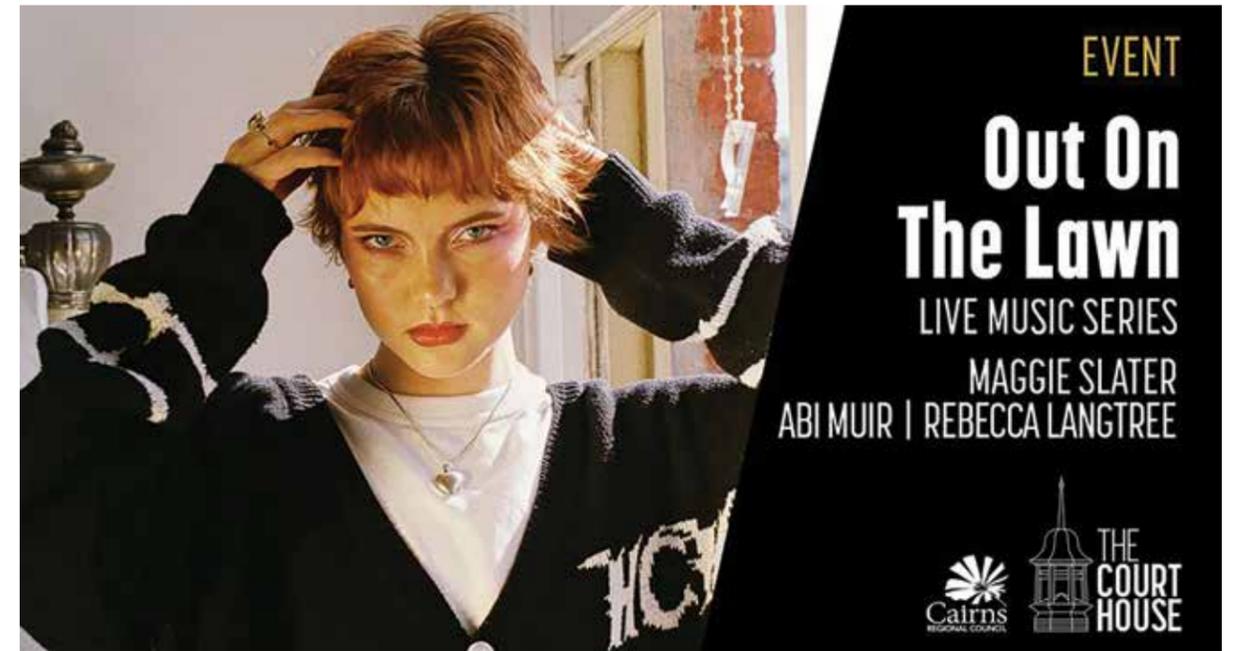
It's hard; my heart is split in so many different ways. My priorities kind of ebb and flow (mostly depending on deadlines). To answer practically, I only ever take three subjects a semester at uni so that I have the time and energy for music.

What is your advice for current graduating Year 12 students?

Quite honestly, relax. This isn't to say don't work hard or try your best; those are both integral. Your marks truly do not define who you are. Set goals that are practical and sustainable, not just for the sake of ticking off a box or proving something to yourself.

When I look back to my time at St Andrew's, I never stopped moving. I was so exhausted every day. Entry into the course that I'm in now did not require that kind of sacrifice.

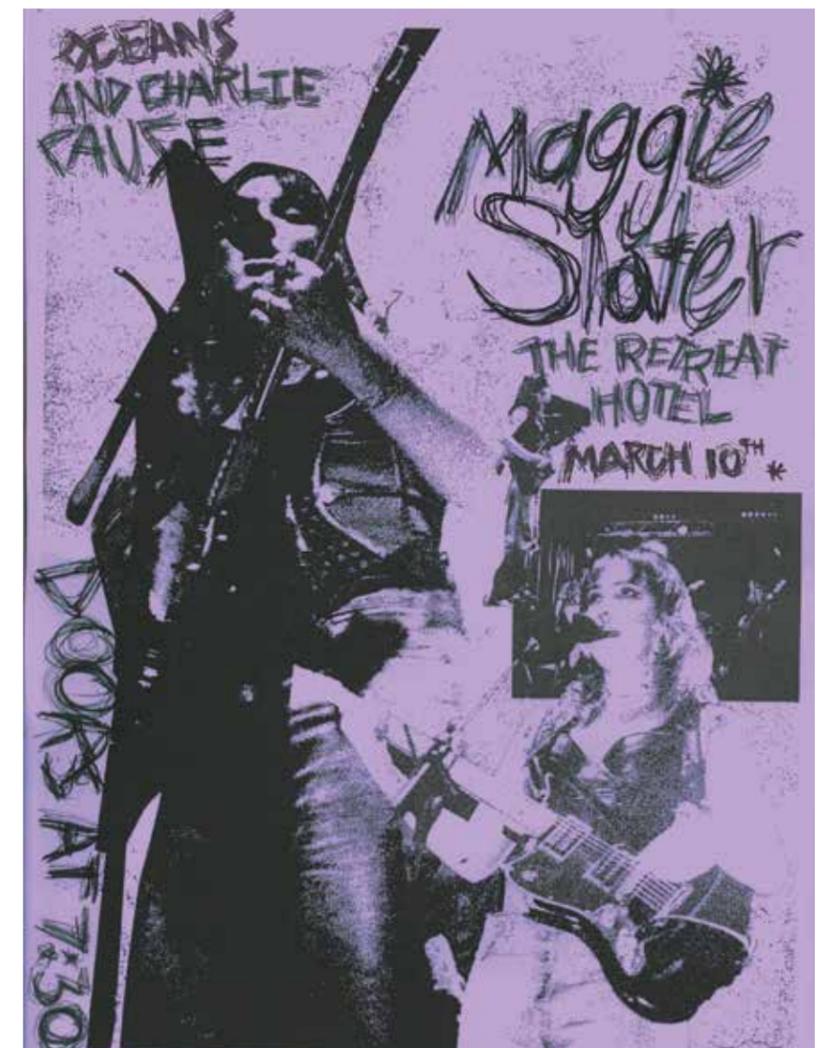
It took time, a lot of sleep, and a decent amount of therapy to realise that my expectations for myself weren't necessary. I wish I'd gained this perspective earlier so I could have enjoyed the journey more and been kinder to myself.



What does the future in 5 years look like for Maggie Slater?

It's so hard to say! I'm moving to Montreal in December for a year on exchange (and to get fluent in French finally), so who knows where that will lead me. Once I'm back I'm planning on doing an Honours year and then probably my Masters or the Juris Doctor, but if things are going well with music I might delay that for a little. I've also started writing a novel which I'm keen to finish as soon as possible. I'd also love to record a full-length album as soon as I can get the money together for it; we'll have to wait and see I guess. I'm kind of just letting things lead me wherever they may.

"The incredible Mrs Mason. Her passion and commitment to the arts and her students were unforgettable. She made every drama class and musical rehearsal a fun and safe space to be. Those times were easily the most carefree and creative I felt at St Andrew's."



Maggie has a new single and her first ever music video coming out on November 16th. She is currently running a GoFundMe campaign to help cover some of the costs associated with this release, which she would be extremely appreciative of any contribution to. You can find Maggie and her music on Facebook, Spotify, Apple music, and all other streaming services under 'Maggie Slater' and on Instagram at @maggieslatersux.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/maggie-slater-single-and-music-video-pr-campaign>

Jazmin Ealden

Class of 2012



Jazmin graduated from the College ten years ago in 2012 and has continued her journey with Music professionally and personally.

Jazmin has travelled internationally with Music, played with the Western Australia Symphony Orchestra, started her own freelance business as a Musician and Academic and is currently working as the Events and Marketing Coordinator for VolunteeringWA. Amongst all this busyness, Jazmin still finds time to compete in triathlons, study and spend time with family and friends.

What year did you graduate?

I graduated in 2012. Ten years this year!?!

What do you love about your career?

Above all else, my career so far has been a huge learning journey. Heading into a career in the arts is always unpredictable, and throwing a pandemic into the equation has only exacerbated this! I recently started working for VolunteeringWA as the Events and Marketing Coordinator.

My role oversees the coordination of large scale annual events, including an Awards Gala Dinner, a VIP Garden Party and a State-wide Conference

from planning to delivery. Previously, I was working as a freelance musician and academic at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) as well as teaching at several schools in the Perth area and directing my own events.

Even though I've moved away from music, I love that all of my experiences as a musician - the touring, scheduling, directing rehearsals and concerts, working collaboratively etc. - have provided me with a solid foundation and wealth of experience to move into a new sector.

What has been your biggest success so far?

I've been privileged to have had so many amazing experiences over the years; travelling to China to present research and perform a recital at an international conference, publication in international magazines, working on staff at WAAPA teaching undergraduate musicians, performing with the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra, and directing many of my own tours and projects with some of my closest peers.

How would you describe a typical day in the life of Jazmin?

I think the pandemic has taught us a lot about our habits and the importance of balance. I work from home 50% of the week, which helps with this balance, and I enjoy the office time for collaborative work and social connection. Outside of working hours, I enjoy classes at a local CrossFit gym, hiking and camping with my wife, and open-water swimming and triathlons in the summer season.

What do you do to maintain your professional development?

I've always been passionate about directing my own projects and developing the events and project management side of my skill set. As a freelance musician, these projects are also imperative to a sustainable career where, generally, the week comprises multiple income streams. Working on self-devised projects is also great because there's no limit to what you can achieve!



"Don't sweat the small stuff! It took me six years (including six months living overseas, then an interstate move, and three different course transfers) to graduate with a four year honours degree."

What would you do if you weren't in your current career?

Anything that pays enough to afford the finer things in life and gives back to the community in one way or another.

Who was your role model at St Andrew's?

I lived and breathed the Music department at St Andrew's. I have so many fond memories over the years and thankfully, ten years on, I'm still in touch with many of the St Andrew's Music family. The department taught me so much about self-discipline, time management, reflection, and respect, and I'm very grateful for all of the opportunities, extra hours, and endless support I experienced in all my years at the College.

What is your advice for current graduating Year 12 students?

Don't sweat the small stuff! It took me six years (including six months living overseas, then an interstate move, and three different course transfers) to graduate with a 4-year honours degree.

I've also since started (and stopped) a Masters and a PhD program. 17 year old me would've been horrified that I hadn't graduated and fallen into a dream career by 25! There's so much internal and external pressure about what the high school graduate/university/early adulthood journey should look like, but more often than not, it's just not realistic. People change; don't be afraid to take time off or reassess your direction if you're not happy.

What does the future in 5 years look like for Jazmin?

Who knows! I would love to continue working in a sector that gives back to the community, and maintaining a balance of hard work, quality time with family and friends, and lots of time outdoors and in nature.





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