



LORETO Mandeville Hall Toorak

Where Are They Now?



Maddie Brown – Class of 2014

Maddie loved being at Loreto and all aspects of her studies there. Drama was her favourite subject, along with maths. Being able to perform in the Performing Arts Festival and other productions were definitely highlights. Her team's Division 1 GSV Water Polo win in Year 12 also stands out among her memories.

After leaving school Maddie undertook a Bachelor of Science with Honours at the University of Melbourne. She majored in Geology, with her thesis focussing on paleoclimates. Subsequently she travelled to Vancouver, Canada on exchange and completed fieldwork across many regions in Victoria.

A significant highlight during her undergraduate years was the opportunity to participate in the CAPSTAN program, which involved 20 young scientists voyaging onboard the CSIRO *RV Investigator*. They travelled from Hobart to Fremantle across ten days exploring aspects and methods of marine science and how to effectively communicate their scientific knowledge to the public.

Currently, Maddie is undertaking PhD studies and researching the way vegetation stabilises foredunes on beaches and how this will change with sea-level rise. She will be based in Dunedin, New Zealand for the next few years while working on her PhD and on Stewart Island where she conducts fieldwork. This PhD research is both a daunting and exciting experience, but Maddie looks forward to seeing how climate research will continue to be at the forefront in society and how scientists can work together towards solutions for the issues we will continue to face.

In her spare time, Maddie still plays water polo and enjoys karaoke nights.



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Maddie credits her Loreto education with encouraging her to pursue research even when questioned because of her gender. The confidence instilled in her by her education assists her every day to be curious and to build upon current knowledge and improve it for the future.