

PRIDE OF FAHAN ALUMNI AWARD

Isabella Buissink

The Fahan School Alumni Association established the Pride of Fahan Alumni Award to enable students to pursue their dreams, bring knowledge and value back to the School and provide value to the community. The following girls were the recipients of the Award in 2017.



After receiving the Pride of Fahan Alumni Award I have been able to further achieve my music dreams. When I applied for the Award I only had an electric piano and a microphone. I now also own a guitar, which I purchased with the money given to me from the Award, and recording software. I spent most Saturdays during the 2017 summer holidays busking down at the Salamanca Markets with my guitar and some of my friends. I have been able to use the guitar to create some of my own music, which I upload to my YouTube channel. I also entered the Triple J Unearthed competition in 2017. Although I didn't win, it was a great learning experience and I hope to continue writing and creating my own music.

This year I performed at the Year 12 charity fundraising evening and played background music on both the guitar and the piano with some of my friends, and hopefully, once I've finished Year 12, I can go back to busking.

I was also able to purchase a camera stand which I have used to film videos for the music covers I make and I am using it to film the 2018 Year 12 leavers' video, which is shown at the Leavers' Assembly in Term Four.

Music has always been a passion of mine. I started playing ukulele when I was seven years old and hopefully I will be able to make something out of it when I'm older. When I received the Pride of Fahan Alumni Award it refuelled my passion for music and I now, more than ever, want to pursue something in the Arts once I am out of school. I know that when I look back on my time at Fahan I will be grateful that I pushed myself to apply for the Award.

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Jessica Cowen

For as long as I can remember, I've always loved anything to do with water. Initially, I followed this passion through swimming, until 2016 when I was introduced to the sport of underwater hockey. For those who don't know, because it's not a very well-known sport, underwater hockey is played underwater and parallel to the bottom of the pool. You must hold your breath and dive down to the bottom and do as much as you can for your team of six before resurfacing for air.

In January 2017, I was lucky enough to travel with the U19 Tasmanian team to Queensland to compete at the Australian Underwater Hockey Nationals and to try out for the Australian U19 women's team to compete in the World Championships later that year. I managed to secure a spot on the team along with three other Tasmanian girls.

However, my Mum and I soon realised that being on the team was far more expensive than we had anticipated, and we began to be doubtful if I would

be able to stay on the team. While searching for solutions to this problem, I came across the Pride of Fahan Alumni Award and decided it would be great to apply. It was fantastic news when I found out I had been successful. I was able to continue my journey with the team to the World Championships that were held in Hobart last year, where we competed against nine other countries to secure a silver medal placing.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that I was given thanks to the Pride of Fahan Alumni Award. It allowed me to pursue my passion, which I might otherwise not have been able to do, and enabled me to grow as a person. Receiving the Award, and the process that went with it, made me consider not only how I could use this to benefit myself, but also how I can share this experience with others. Introducing others to the wonderful and inclusive sport of underwater hockey and helping others to also achieve their goals would be a great start.



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Isabelle Hemmings

Powerlifting requires a considerable amount of personal and financial commitment from athletes, including significant training time, effort, equipment as well as self-funded travel expenses to national and international competitions. I've been competing in powerlifting since 2016, and in 2017, was lucky enough to qualify for the Oceania Championships that were held in Singapore – my first International competition representing Australia.

Competing in powerlifting has mentally and physically challenged me and has been incredibly rewarding. I've been able to develop my learning skills, perseverance, resilience and confidence. I am also making the best possible effort to be an example to girls at Fahan that women can still succeed at strength sports, traditionally dominated by men.

After receiving the Pride of Fahan Alumni Award in 2017, I was able to purchase new lifting equipment, including a new set of lifting shoes, belt and Australian uniform to use for my training and competitions. Through my sustained training and efforts, I managed to place second in my division in Singapore, and am looking to compete at the World Championships in 2019.

Strength sports have traditionally been for men, and as a young female, I believe that my goals and aspirations are a great example, not only to girls in the School, but also the wider community as I aim to be a positive influence and role model. I want to empower other girls to follow their dreams and conquer what intimidates them most. I love inspiring those around me and encourage them to build their own confidence, to make a difference and to live a healthy life.

At such a young age, I think it's important to make the most of every opportunity, create new experiences and set new goals and I'm incredibly grateful to the Alumni Association for allowing me to do so. I would greatly encourage other Fahan students to apply for the Pride of Fahan Alumni Award, so they, too, can pursue their passions and make the most of new opportunities.



Isabelle has recently won a gold medal in the Under 63kg Sub Junior class at the APU National Powerlifting Championships in NSW. This qualifies her for the World Classic Powerlifting Championships in Sweden in June, 2019. Well done Isabelle!