

Monica Butel, Chartered Accountant

My name is Monica Butel. I'm a Chartered Accountant and I graduated from Stuartholme in 2000. I started at Stuartholme in 96 as a day student and then for the final two years I went into the Boarding House because my family relocated back to Central Queensland. I am so grateful and lucky that I got to experience both day student and boarding life.

From day one at Stuartholme I embraced the Stuartholme culture. I tried everything and I mean everything. I am tone deaf and I was in the year 8 choir, I played percussion in the school band, I debated every year, I was in the basketball and netball teams, I rowed, I was in the First VIII in 99. All of these extra curricular activities taught me some really important life lessons that have carried me through over the last 20 years such as being resilient, picking yourself up from a defeat quickly. The importance of discipline and grit and how to work in and lead a team.

My best friends are still my friends from school. Several of them I either rowed with or debated with or played sport with. I speak to these girls almost weekly. I've got such fond memories of my time at Stuartholme, especially in the boarding house.

Post studies I worked at Deloitte and PwC as a chartered accountant in both Australia and London. More recently I was the finance director for Coca-Cola European Partners. I ran a large finance team across 13 different countries that we operated in. Being at Stuartholme gave me the confidence to achieve what I've currently achieved.

I've just returned to Australia and Brisbane. I've got an office in the city and I'm really loving being back here. One of my key passions and hobbies is hiking and I think being in the Boarding House up at Stuartholme surrounded by bushland and Mt Coot-tha really gave me that hiking bug at an early age.

Some advice that I would give my 15-year-old self is make close friends, be grateful, be proactive, enjoy every moment and make the most of every opportunity that your given.

I've loved my journey to date and I'm so excited to see what the next 20 years will bring me.