

Past Student Spotlight

Dr Ben Brimblecombe (2006)



(Ben graduated in 2006 – School Captain and Senior Dux)

I grew up in St George and enjoyed so many things about living in the country. One of these was doing school at St George State High, which was a great experience and I still feel privileged to have done school out here.

After school I went to Brisbane to study at UQ doing a Bachelor of Science as I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do. I then went on to do an honours year looking at some environmental microscopic organisms called testate amoebae (which make tiny shells around themselves – pretty amazing). During this period I decided to do

medicine and continued on at UQ to study my Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery, completing this in 2014. The first two years of this I studied in Brisbane, but then I was able to do the final two years in Toowoomba at the Rural Clinical School there which was wonderful, to have a smaller more personalised environment for study. I would encourage anyone studying medicine to consider rural clinical school placements (most medical schools have these). During medical school I was fortunate to see a bit of the country during some placements, including the Kimberley in Western Australia for a month. After graduation I stayed working at the Toowoomba Hospital for 3 years, with the final year of that period doing a job based in the Emergency Department. Then I was keen to go more rurally and lived and worked up in Theodore in Central Queensland for a year working as both a trainee GP and a hospital based doctor. After that I was fortunate enough to be offered a job back here in St George at the St George Medical Centre, and I have been here for nearly five years now. It is a real privilege to be working as a doctor in my hometown and I have appreciated how gracious everyone has been at seeing me as a GP. It has been great helping to staff the high school GP clinic, which I do every Thursday morning now during term time. Talk about coming full circle!

Dr Ben Brimblecombe