

# Past Student Story

## Stephen Spackman (2011)



My name is Stephen Spackman and I graduated from St George State High School in 2011 where I was Nixon Sports Captain. I spent my school years working after school at the local pool as a qualified Life Guard, working at Kurray irrigating pool and also picking grapes in grape season. At school I enjoyed catching up with mates and enjoyed every sport on offer including swimming, touch football, rugby league and was awarded Senior Sportsman of The Year in my final year at school. My favourite subject at school was Computer Studies/ICT and my favourite teachers were Mr Perina who taught Manual Arts and Miss Bird who was my English teacher. Another great memory was at my Year 12 formal, I was part of the band that played music that night.

Leaving school, I had no great ambition to do further study and was just happy to be employed under contract with the Balonne Shire Council where I was part of the team who built the levy bank around the town of Bollon.

My time spent with the Balonne Shire saw me obtain my ticket as a qualified Roller Operator and enjoyed the experience working with my Supervisor which was also my Grandfather Steve Taylor or “Tootie” who was also the grader driver on the job site. I learnt a few old school rules while working under him eg if he said he was picking me up for work at 5am – it really meant 4.30am.

After three years of camping out at Bollon, my contract finished and I was fortunate to work at BSC for the next three years in many roles over the years. I also worked as a bartender at the “Saint” however always thought I would enjoy working as a Diesel Mechanic but never really looked into it.

At the age of 26 I was successful in joining the team at St George Machinery Centre as a mature aged apprentice. Yes, the pay was less but I was ready to start a new chapter and challenge in my life and went back to studying (something I thought I would never do) and started my apprentice as a Diesel Mechanic. This year I completed my Certificate III in Engineering Mechanical Trade (Maintenance – Diesel Fitting) and also Certificate II in Automotive Air Conditioning Technology.

Over the years I have learnt from my mistakes, gained from my experiences and now realise just do what makes you happy. There is no need to stay in a job that doesn't satisfy you and you're never too old to start something new.

In other words you don't have to have it all worked out by the time you finish Year 12. All doors are open for anyone willing to have a go!

Stephen Spackman