

VYUNKKA HOHNEN



Vynka Hohnen

Vynka Hohnen graduated from Bond University in January 1998 with a Bachelor of Laws degree, with an emphasis on advocacy and commercial law.

Vynka contributed extensively to campus life as a Resident Fellow for Student Residences and through her organisation of numerous social activities for students, her care and concern for the wellbeing of fellow students, and her active participation in numerous campus clubs and sports. Vynka was a particularly outgoing, friendly and cheerful person, who was accepting and forgiving of others.

On graduation, Vynka commenced Articles of Clerkship with a law firm in Perth, WA, and was admitted as a solicitor and barrister of the Supreme Court of Western Australia in March 1999.

She continued her community service and association with Bond University through coaching St Mary's Anglican Girls' School for the annual inter-schools mooting, or mock court competition. Vynka tutored at Perth universities and coached children for horse riding events, among other things.

The Vynka Hohnen Scholarship

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

The Vynka Hohnen Scholarship Fund was established in memory of Vynka Hohnen, a law student at Bond University from May 1995 to December 1997.

The Fund is used to facilitate the education of suitably qualified school leaving students residing in Western Australia and in their final year of high school. The scholarship was first awarded in 2003, and has been awarded in each subsequent year.

The scholarship is proudly supported by the Hohnen Family, friends and the Western Australian community.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for the Vynka Hohnen Scholarship close on 1 August each year, and must be made to Bond University through its online application form.

Further details may be found online at: bond.edu.au/scholarships.

For more information about the Scholarship, contact scholarships@bond.edu.au.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Vynka Hohnen Scholarship is offered annually to Year 12 school students residing and studying in Western Australia.

One scholarship may be awarded per annum, provided there is a suitably meritorious candidate.

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must demonstrate:

- A high level of leadership
- A history of involvement and contribution in their school or contribution to their local community
- A diverse range of interests
- A cheerful, friendly, generous, supportive and outgoing nature
- A capacity for high academic achievement



2025 Vynka Hohnen Scholarship recipient, Jetlen Egerton-Warburton, and Bond University Vice Chancellor and President, Professor Tim Brailsford.

About Bond University

Bond University is set on a 50 hectare campus at Robina on Queensland's Gold Coast. Created in the traditions of the world's leading private universities, a series of grand sandstone faculty buildings line a landscaped promenade leading down to the tranquil man-made lake.

Lecture theatres, case study rooms and tutorial rooms are conveniently located in the University Centre building; student restaurants and cafes circle the lake; and on-campus accommodation is within easy walking distance of all University faculties.

The study facilities at Bond are state-of-the-art, incorporating high-tech lecture theatres, computing facilities, and libraries that are ranked among Australia's best.

Complementing these academic features, you'll find a comprehensive selection of recreational and social outlets that encourage interaction between students outside the classroom.

The vision of Bond University is to be a leading private, not-for-profit and independent university of world standing, with a mission to produce uniquely identifiable graduates who are leaders and thinkers, imbued with initiative, the spirit of free enterprise and a continuing quest for intellectual inquiry, challenge and opportunity.



How to contribute

Contributions to the scholarship fund are always welcome. For information on how you can contribute to the Vynka Hohnen Scholarship Fund, please contact:

Mr Brett Walker

Executive Director of Advancement
Office of Advancement

Bond University
Gold Coast QLD 4229

Phone: 07 5595 1027

Email: bwalker@bond.edu.au

OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

The objective of the scholarship is to give young people in Western Australia an opportunity to experience what the world has to offer.

The scholarship is founded upon the belief that young people will benefit greatly from the opportunities that attendance at Bond University provides; exposure to a wide mix of cultures and people, a different social and geographical environment, and proximity to eastern cities, in addition to the quality of education provided by Bond University. The scholarship recipients will benefit from the education experience Bond University provides, as did Vynka, which sets it apart.



Past Scholarship recipients

YEAR	WINNER	GRADUATION YEAR	DEGREE ACHIEVED
2003	Polly Banks	2006	Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of International Relations
2004	Ryan Lenegan	2006 2009	Bachelor of Journalism Master of Sports Management
2005	Ellen Hooper (nee. Williams)	2010	Bachelor of Laws / Bachelor of International Relations
2006	Carley Angel (nee. Sear)	2008	Bachelor of Journalism
2007	Annelise Neilsen	2011	Bachelor of Laws
2008	Jacqui Ward	2013	Bachelor of Laws / Bachelor of Arts
2009	Stephen Bignell	2013	Bachelor of Laws / Bachelor of Commerce
2010	Rosie Viner	2012	Bachelor of Forensic Science
2011	Alma Corker	2014	Bachelor of Biomedical Science
2012	Imogen Thompson	2015	Bachelor of Biomedical Science
2013	Karri Coles	2017	Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Laws
2014	Solomon Wright	2019	Bachelor of Laws
2015	Grace Ferraz	2018	Bachelor of Sustainable Environments and Planning
2016	Robyn Fairbairn	2019	Bachelor of Film and Television
2017	Joshua Poi	2023	Bachelor of Laws / Bachelor of Commerce
2018	Cassie Ryan	2021	Bachelor of Film and Television
2020	Georgia Gillibrand	2023	Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science
2021	Lily Boisvert	2024	Bachelor of Film and Television
2022	Lloyd Carver-Kriege	2025	Bachelor of Film and Television
2023	Madeleine Gilmore	2025 Still studying	Bachelor of Design in Architecture Master of Architecture
2024	Keshav Dhruva	Still studying	Bachelor of Actuarial Science
2025	Jetlen Egerton-Warburton	Still studying	Bachelor of International Relations/Bachelor of Laws

“I hope you embrace every opportunity, friendship and unexpected turn that lies ahead.”



Polly Banks
2003

More than two decades have passed since I began my studies at Bond University as the inaugural recipient of the Vynka Hohnen Scholarship. Each year, writing this update gives me an opportunity to reflect on the many doors the scholarship opened and the journey that followed.

This past year has marked a significant transition for me and my family. After three years living and working in Vanuatu as the Country Director for Save the Children leading an \$80M portfolio of programs, we have recently returned home to Western Australia and are now settling into life in Margaret River. I continue to work with Save the Children, leading its corporate partnerships division while completing my handover to a Ni-Vanuatu Country Director. Supporting this transition has been particularly meaningful. It is a privilege to see the leadership of the Vanuatu office pass into local hands and to remain connected to an organisation and country that have shaped me so profoundly.

Another highlight of 2026 was participating in the Australian Pathways to Politics for Women program through the Western Australian chapter. The program culminated in delivering a speech in the Western Australian Parliament, where I spoke about Australia's diminishing foreign aid contributions and the importance of being a generous and dependable regional neighbour, particularly to countries across the Pacific.

Although this year has brought me geographically closer to where my own journey began, my work continues to be shaped by the international perspective, curiosity and sense of possibility that my time at Bond helped foster. The Vynka Hohnen Scholarship gave me far more than an education. It gave me the confidence and opportunity to pursue a career focused on children, communities and positive change.

To this year's scholarship recipient, congratulations. I hope you embrace every opportunity, friendship and unexpected turn that lies ahead. And to everyone who continues to support the scholarship, thank you. Your generosity creates an impact that carries forward through the lives, careers and communities of every recipient.

“Joining the Bond community is a truly transformative experience, and you are following in the footsteps of so many proud alumni.”



Ryan Lenegan
2004

Every year when I sit down to write this update, I am reminded of just how quickly time moves. On the family front, life is wonderfully full with our two boys; Adam, who is now four, and Sam, who has reached the ripe old age of two. Keeping up with their energy levels is a full-time job, but it brings an incredible amount of everyday joy to my wife Ness and I.

Professionally, 2026 has brought a major new chapter for me. After four deeply fulfilling years leading the Perth Basketball Association (Perth Redbacks) as CEO, I recently transitioned into the role of Chief Manager - Basketball Operations at Basketball WA. Leaving the Redbacks on a high note after securing \$2 million in government planning funding for our long-awaited stadium project was an incredible milestone, and I am thrilled to now be helping guide the growth of the sport on a statewide level.

To this year's Vynka Hohnen recipient - massive congratulations! Joining the Bond community is a truly transformative experience, and you are following in the footsteps of so many proud alumni. Make the absolute most of every single opportunity that comes your way.

My sincere thanks go to Professor Brailsford and the dedicated team at Bond University for their ongoing leadership and pursuit of excellence.

Finally, to Mark, Cate, Ben, Alex, and all the benefactors whose selfless support makes this scholarship possible: thank you for your enduring generosity and for continuing to honour Vynka's memory in such an impactful way.

“Being a Vynka Hohnen scholar is a special privilege that has created lifelong friendships”



Ellen Hooper
(nee. Williams)

2005

I was awarded the Vynka Hohnen scholarship in 2005. I started at Bond University in May 2006 and graduated with a Bachelor of Law and Bachelor of International Relations in 2010. It's now been 20 years since I left Perth and started at Bond.

The opportunity to attend Bond University has had a monumental impact on all aspects of my life. Bond is where I met my husband, Matthew, a fellow Bondy.

Matt and I now have two “Bond babies” (who are 9 and 6). As well as being the foundation for my family, Bond is also where I made lifelong friends.

Going to Bond also undoubtedly had a positive impact on my professional life.

I started my career as an employment lawyer with (what is now) Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer and the Department of Education and Training. After leaving the law behind I started my career in people and culture in the Department of Education, the National Disability Insurance Agency and Monash University.

In 2021, I started my own executive coaching business. Bond certainly fostered my entrepreneurial spirit and my Bond friends and networks are a big part of my business life. I love running a business and working with organisations like Australian Unity, Our Watch and the Florey Institute.

Being a Vynka Hohnen scholar is a special privilege that has created lifelong friendships. I've been a bridesmaid for both Polly Banks and Carley Sear. When Carley started her PR company, I was lucky enough to be one of Carley's first clients. (Thanks to her skill and expertise, I've been featured by the ABC, Channel 7, CEO Magazine, Smart Company, HR Leader, the Sydney Morning Herald and the West Australian. She's that good).

This year my family spent time with Polly's family in Margaret River and just last week Polly came over for dinner, read my 6-year-old a story and put her to bed.

Receiving the Vynka Hohnen scholarship and playing a small part in carrying on Vynka's legacy is an incredible honour, I remain greatly indebted to the Hohnen family for their generosity and support.

“You should be so proud of your achievements so far and so excited for the opportunities on the horizon.”



Carley Angel
(nee. Sear)

2006

Congratulations to the latest recipient of the Vynka Hohnen Scholarship. You should be so proud of your achievements so far and so excited for the opportunities on the horizon. When I look back at my time at Bond, that is what I remember so well: every door that you could choose to walk through and every new connection you could make.

In 2025, I completed a Graduate Diploma of Education (Primary), and since then I have been spending a lot of time in schools. I have always loved learning, and it is a great feeling to pass on that to the next generation.

I'm currently working for a mental health charity, zero2hero, designing new Primary School content to empower young people with strategies to support their mental health.

Alongside this role, I run a small media PR agency representing Tennis Australia, Nature Play WA, Schools Plus and the Motor Trade Association.

I am also a relief teacher, casual news Producer at Channel 7 and Mum of two. Yes, it is as chaotic as it sounds. I'm enjoying the variety that each role brings and the flexibility to be available for my two young children. It's quite a bizarre experience going from hosting a government press conference one day to a room of Year 1s the next.

Personally, I have my 20-year High School Reunion this year, which means 20 years since I was packing for Bond. Whilst it doesn't feel like it could possibly be that long – my increasingly grey hair would say otherwise.

I'm excited to catch up with the other award recipients at the event this year. To this year's recipient – I hope you make friendships that last a lifetime, seek out experiences that shape you and go out into the world an even better person than when you went in.

“The legacy the Hohnen Family has created in starting this scholarship will be felt for generations to come.”



Annelise Neilsen
2007

There's so much to be said about why Bond is such a great University. But at the end of the day, nothing is going to shape your life more than the people you surround yourself with. Bond is full of ambitious people who aren't afraid to take risks, whether that's driving dark icy backroads or chasing those big jobs that seem so out of reach when you're just getting started. I know the new Vynka Scholar will not only be one of those people who enthusiastically lifts up everyone around them, but has that drive to achieve big things too. That describes every single Vynka Hohnen Scholar, and I feel privileged to be among them.

I've now marked 5 years as Sky News Australia's Washington Correspondent. It's a job that can have me talking politics to ordinary people in bars in rural America and asking questions in the White House Press Briefing Room in the same week. I've covered more rallies and protests than I can count and have now travelled to 43 US states. I still pinch myself every day I can walk into the White House or the US Capitol. It's a long way from Perth! Or Tasmanian Parliament where I first started working as a TV Reporter. Studying law at Bond gave me the best foundation to cover a complex policy and political environment like the United States. And the endless number of legal cases that marked the 2024 Presidential Election were particularly in my wheelhouse.

It still feels almost impossible to put into words how fundamental the Vynka Hohnen Scholarship was in shaping my life and landing me where I am today. The confidence it gave me to chase opportunities far away from home has opened so many doors for me. And I know it will be exactly the same for this year's Vynka Hohnen Scholar.

The legacy the Hohnen Family has created in starting this scholarship will be felt for generations to come. I'm so proud the pool of Vynka Hohnen Scholars is growing and I know our newest member has a bright future ahead of them. With endless thanks to the Hohnen Family, and congratulations to this year's Scholar!





“To the new Vynka Hohnen scholar – congratulations and make sure you take the time to celebrate this fabulous achievement.”



Jacqui Ward
2008

I've just passed three years at Cricket Australia and can't believe how quickly that time has flown! We are all gearing up for what will be Australia's biggest ever summer of cricket with the Ashes kicking off in Perth soon. It's really exciting to be part of a sport that I've always loved and I feel so lucky to be writing this with a view of the MCG in my background.

Earlier this year I was promoted to Head of Venues and Legal Projects, meaning I'm now also responsible for managing CA's relationships with stadiums across the country. While I'm still wearing a legal hat as well, it's been very rewarding to be building a team, learning different skill sets and fostering relationships in this new role.

Late last year I also joined my first non-profit board as a Director with the AFL's Melbourne Masters League which has been a great learning experience and has helped build my confidence in the sports governance space.

Last year I mentioned househunting and shortly after that an auction finally fell in our favour! We're loving our new home and everything Melbourne still has to offer but of course always love to come back to visit Perth whenever we can.

To the new Vynka Hohnen scholar – congratulations and make sure you take the time to celebrate this fabulous achievement. And to Mark, Cate, Ben and Alex, continued thanks for providing us all with this life-changing opportunity. As you'll all read through these pages, the legacy that it continues to leave across so many individuals is incredible!! I can't wait to read everyone's updates and I'm sure everyone is doing fabulous things.

“You never know when the skills you build, or the people you meet, will shape your journey in unexpected ways.”



Stephen Bignell
2009

The past twelve months have been filled with adventure and transformation. My wife and I began the year exploring Spain and Portugal, before joining what seemed like every other Aussie in visiting Japan over Christmas. We've always believed that travel is like a university degree—it opens the mind, challenges perspectives, and builds a deeper appreciation of different cultures and traditions.

More recently, we experienced our greatest adventure yet: welcoming our daughter, Rafaela, into the world in August 2025. In a beautiful twist of fate, my old Bond friend—also my original Bull sharks AFL coach—moved into our suburb (just above the local coffee shop). Even more serendipitously, he and his wife welcomed their own baby daughter just one day before us. It's a reminder that the friendships forged at Bond continue to shape our lives, and now extend to the next generation.

Professionally, I continue to enjoy my role in Australia's agricultural, food, and fibre sector, where I focus on improving the profitability of our nation's farms. Time and again, I encounter fellow Bond alumni—whether they are producers, working in retail and banking, or leading industry-run corporations as CEOs. It's a powerful reminder that Bond connections truly are lifelong.

To this year's recipient of the Vynka Hohnen Scholarship: seize the opportunity with both hands. Throw yourself into every extracurricular activity you can—whether it's tennis, footy, mooting, or something entirely new. You never know when the skills you build, or the people you meet, will shape your journey in unexpected ways.

Finally, I want to sincerely thank Mark, Cate, and all the benefactors for the life-changing opportunities you've given to scholars. My very best wishes to the 2026 recipient as you begin your own Bond adventure.

“As always I am so thankful to the Hohnen family and friends for supporting the scholarship that gave me the first page of my journey, and I wish all the best to the next winner for 2027.”



Rosie Viner
2010

I can't believe another year has passed us by and I'm so excited to hear updates from all our friends and meet the new scholarship winner.

2026 saw our little boy Roger turn 1 and our big girl Lucy start Kindy. I sat and passed my final fellowship examination with the Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in March and now I have 3 years left of training to go before becoming a specialist.

I'm currently at King Edward Memorial Hospital working on the labour ward delivering some of Western Australia's smallest and high risk babies.

It's such an honour to pursue this career and despite the long hours and exam hurdles it's all worth it. As a family we have had wonderful holidays from Rottneest to Thailand and just this October we are off to Brisbane for a Bondies wedding, followed by two weeks in Port Douglas and Palm Cove.

As always I am so thankful to the Hohnen family and friends for supporting the scholarship that gave me the first page of my journey, and I wish all the best to the next winner for 2027.

“The culmination of all your hard work is coming together and you have a very exciting future ahead.”



Alma Corker
2011

First of all, a massive congratulations to the 2026 Vynka Hohnen recipient!

The culmination of all your hard work is coming together and you have a very exciting future ahead. I remember very clearly being in your position and look back fondly at my time at Bond. I am now working as a haematology advanced trainee at Liverpool Hospital in Sydney. I have come full circle as I rotate into the laboratory, drawing upon skills I was taught in my foundational classes of biomedical science at Bond. Early in my junior medical years, I oscillated between intensive care and physician training. Now into my final years of training, I am very happy with the choice I have made and it makes a lot of sense after loving the basic sciences of my undergraduate at Bond.

Bond University is truly a fantastic tertiary institution. The education and community there are second to none. The friends I made at Bond, remain my friends for life and it has been so special for me to have an international community from such an early point in my tertiary education. After completing my biomedical degree in 2014, I returned to Western Australia to complete a Doctor of Medicine at the University of Western Australia. Following my internship, I relocated to Sydney in 2020 (unfortunately timed just prior to the pandemic) to work at The Prince of Wales Hospital. There, I was (surprisingly) reunited with old Bondies and I again felt that great sense of community despite being very far from my WA family and friends. After completing my basic physician training, I decided to move sites for my haematology training to the South Western Sydney Local Health District. The move was daunting but it has been a great opportunity for me to grow professionally.

Thank you to Mark and Cate Hohnen, Alex Sceales and supporters of the Vynka Hohnen Scholarship. Your generosity continues to provide a life-changing opportunity to a young Western Australian. I will be forever grateful for my time at Bond and look forward to seeing you all in person this year at the award ceremony.

“Bond is unmatched in its opportunities, and you’re going to have the best time.”



Imogen Thompson
2012

The past 12 months have been a whirlwind!

At the end of last year I was incredibly fortunate to be awarded the 2026 Sir James McCusker John Monash Scholarship to study a master's degree at the University of Oxford. This is a dream come true, and even though I've well and truly started packing my bags it doesn't quite feel real yet. I imagine it will hit me suddenly when I land in the UK autumn weather - as a WA girl, I'm not built for the cold and never acclimatise easily!

At Oxford I will be studying a masters focusing on epidemiology and the quantitative aspects of public health, as well as undertaking research in women's health that will build upon my specialty training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology to date.

It's coming up on 13 years since I started at Bond in 2013, and so much has changed since I most recently studied at university for my medical degree, but I'm so excited to get back into it.

I'm very sad to be missing the scholarship presentation dinner, but am incredibly grateful to the Hohnen family for their support in getting me started on this journey - I wouldn't be here without it. All of my congratulations to the 2026 Vynka Hohnen Scholar, you're only just getting started on what will be an amazing adventure.

“This is a huge achievement, and no doubt the first of many more to come.”



Karri Coles
2013

Hi all! It's crazy to think it's been another year - the relentless march of time really is undeniable. However, it's been a good year, and I'm delighted to be back reuniting with the extended Hohnen family and friends, and the other "Vynkas", once again.

This year was a big year for me, as I turned 30! In anticipation of a mild existential crisis, I twisted my partner's arm into taking a month's holiday in Japan and South Korea to celebrate. It was my first time in both countries, and a fantastic way to celebrate, although I've been ruined by all the fantastic food and now will be perpetually chasing that high. I also changed jobs once again, into what I hope will be my permanent role for the foreseeable future. After spending my first 8 career years in private practice commercial law, I had to give government advisory a try. Unfortunately, it wasn't quite for me, and I've now returned to private practice. I'm specialising in mining and resources law, with a special interest in litigation and large disputes. It's very interesting, and satisfying in the best ways - like building a giant jigsaw, but you have to pry the pieces off your opponent.

Finally, we've had some big life changes too - my partner and I are selling my first house in favour of a house together, and my mother is (finally) moving home to Perth after almost 5 years living in remote communities as a financial counsellor. All in all, things are tracking very well, and I'm excited for what's to come.

Congratulations to the new scholarship recipient, and welcome to the family! This is a huge achievement, and no doubt the first of many more to come. Thanks again, as always, to Mark and Cate and everyone involved in the scholarship - I (and the other recipients) are eternally grateful.

“The scholarship is truly special and I wouldn't be where I am today without it.”



Solomon Wright
2014

What a year it has been! I'm pleased to say that after finishing med school last year, I was accepted into the Royal Hobart Hospital for my medical intern year. The year so far has been such a challenge and a steep learning curve, but I've really enjoyed the process. I started the year doing orthopaedics, and have rotated through emergency, respiratory, and rehab so far. All my rotations have had many great moments with memorable patients, and I'm so very happy to have no exams this year! I'm also loving the atmosphere down here in Hobart, and I'm well supported at work so feel very lucky that I took the plunge and made the move. In more career news, at the end of last year I managed to get myself published in a few articles, one of which won an award, which I'm very proud of. Lastly, only last week I discovered my application to join the physician pathway has been accepted, so I will commence physician training here in Hobart next year. It'll be a long road ahead, and I'm not totally sure where it will lead at the moment, but I'm very happy to be on a program!

Outside of work, I'm still trying to stay fit and catch up with friends when I can. I'm adoring the Hobart scenery every day on my commute to work, and have been trying to catch as much of the sun as I can Hobart's short winter days! On my leave this year I spent a few weeks driving a lap of Tassie, and was amazed at how beautiful (and cold!) the state is. Thankfully my current rental has a fireplace which has been such a bonus in the colder months!

Congratulations to the new Vynka scholar! I absolutely loved my time at Bond, and I'm sure you will as well. It's an amazing community and a special experience, particularly being there as a Vynka Hohnen Scholar. Only a few weeks ago I found myself on the Gold Coast for a celebration and dropped by Bond for a quick reminisce - it's an amazing place to be with such beautiful grounds, I hope you enjoy how lovely the campus is. Once again, I would like to thank Alex, the Hohnen family and the many people who have granted me the opportunity to further my education through the scholarship at Bond University. I appreciate the continued support that both this community and the University have offered to me throughout my time in Queensland, and now as an alumnus. The scholarship is truly special and I wouldn't be where I am today without it.

“Make the most of everything Bond has to offer and soak it all in, because these years will go by fast and they’ll be some of the best times of your life.”



Grace Ferraz
2015

Huge congratulations to the new Vynka Hohnen Scholarship recipient! What an awesome achievement - you should be really proud. Make the most of everything Bond has to offer and soak it all in, because these years will go by fast and they’ll be some of the best times of your life. I still remember getting my first newsletter at the end of year 12 and reading about all the amazing Vynkas - seemed like yesterday but 10 years has passed since then! I’ll always have a soft spot for my days on the Gold Coast. These newsletters are such a great way to reconnect and hear about the exciting things happening in everyone’s lives.

Since last year’s newsletter, my partner and I made the move back from Canada to Perth. It was bittersweet - hard to leave behind amazing friends, memories, and all the mountain sports we loved, but so nice to return home to family, friends, and of course, the beach! Not long after settling back, I started a new role as Sustainability Officer for the Town of East Fremantle. It’s been both challenging and rewarding, with lots to learn, but I’ve really enjoyed working across a variety of projects alongside such passionate groups and individuals. A key focus of my role is helping the Town reach its ambitious goal of becoming zero carbon by 2030, which has been exciting to contribute to.

On a personal note, I recently underwent surgery that’s given me more clarity around my health, something I’m very thankful for. Being back in Australia has also meant reconnecting with the ocean - I’ve loved getting back into surfing, diving, and all my favourite beach activities. I’m looking forward to the year ahead, continuing to grow, learn, and hopefully get even stronger. Finally, I want to say another huge thank you to Alex, the Hohnen family, and everyone who supports this scholarship. It has truly been life changing, and I remain so grateful for the opportunities it has given me.

“Bond not only allowed me to complete a degree that I loved and took pride in, but also helped shape me into a strong and confident woman.”



Robyn Fairbairn
2016

Congratulations to the 2026 Vynka Hohnen Scholarship recipient! You should be immensely proud of yourself. Now get ready for a new and fulfilling adventure!

Last year, I worked for Prospero Productions in Fremantle as a Production Coordinator on three documentary series: Outback Truckers S10, Outback Truckers S11, and Outback Crystal Hunters S2. These projects were filmed in some of the most remote and challenging locations in Australia. I was at the heart of production - liaising with story producers, managing logistics, and securing permits from councils and national parks. These shoots kept me on my toes thanks to the unpredictable nature of the outback! After my contract ended in March 2025, I packed my (almost person-sized) backpack and set off on the most incredible adventure of my life so far: solo travel.

This year I’ve journeyed through Japan, Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Germany, and now Scotland. I’ve immersed myself in vibrant cultures and challenged myself to step outside my comfort zone along the way. Some highlights include; learning to ski in a small town called Nozawa Onsen in Japan, completing several spectacular hikes across Europe- including climbing Monte Clapier, a 3,000m peak in the French Alps and experiencing the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, when the entire city comes alive throughout August. I truly believe that receiving the Vynka Hohnen Scholarship at the end of high school set me on a path of self-discovery. It threw me in at the deep end and taught me how to thrive in the unknown, I’d like to sincerely thank the Hohnen family and Alex for their generosity. Bond not only allowed me to complete a degree that I loved and took pride in, but also helped shape me into a strong and confident woman.

“The Bond experience is truly unique, and I have no doubt that you will create memories and friendships that will stay with you long after graduation.”



Joshua Poi
2017

Hello and congratulations to the 2026 recipient of the Vynka Hohnen Scholarship. I am thrilled for you as you begin your journey at Bond University with the support of this scholarship. You are about to embark on an incredible experience, and I wish you every success in your studies and beyond.

It is hard to believe that almost five years have passed since I completed my final semester at Bond in December 2021. Looking back, my time at the university was both rewarding and transformative, and I remain immensely grateful to the Hohnen family for making that opportunity possible. Without their generosity and the support of the university, I would not have been able to undertake such a remarkable journey.

Today, I work as a Distribution Manager at Bentham Asset Management, a role that I genuinely enjoy. It challenges me professionally while allowing me to build relationships with a broad network of people across the financial services industry. Outside of work, I continue to pursue my passion for music, regularly performing as a saxophonist at venues around Sydney. The confidence, skills and connections I gained through the Vynka Hohnen Scholarship and my time at Bond have played a significant role in helping me pursue these opportunities. The experiences, friendships and personal growth that came from my years at Bond continue to shape my life and career today. To the 2026 recipient, I encourage you to appreciate the significance of this achievement and make the most of every opportunity that comes your way. This scholarship is more than financial support; it is an investment in your future and a platform from which you can achieve great things.

Some of my fondest memories were made on campus, whether it was catching up with friends over coffee, spending afternoons studying in the Law Library, or enjoying nights out at Don's. The Bond experience is truly unique, and I have no doubt that you will create memories and friendships that will stay with you long after graduation.

Congratulations once again. Enjoy every moment of the journey ahead. It will pass more quickly than you think, and one day you will look back on your time at Bond with the same gratitude and fondness that so many recipients before you do today.

“This opportunity is life changing, the people you'll meet and the experiences you'll have will open up your world beyond Perth and Australia.”



Cassie Ryan
2018

A huge congratulations to the 2026 Vynka Hohnen Scholarship recipient! This opportunity is life changing, the people you'll meet and the experiences you'll have will open up your world beyond Perth and Australia.

For the past year I've been living and working in London. After a few months of figuring my new life out, it finally feels like another home, similar to the Gold Coast, after moving all the way back in 2019! I've been lucky enough to work abroad in Morocco and travel Europe and the US for the first half of 2026 before landing a role in a Writer's room in London. My work has taken a more creative turn this year and I've been privy to the development of a show called Mobland.

It's been an incredible experience moving overseas and has changed my career and life path. I know none of it would have been possible without the confidence I gained from first moving across the country. Beginning your journey at Bond is so exciting, every year when I sit down to write this update I reflect on who I've become purely because of this opportunity. Bond brings out the best in you, make the most out of it, say yes to as much as you can and take time to reflect on who you're becoming. It will be over before you know it, so embrace it all!

Congratulations again and welcome to this group of unique and talented individuals.

“I am so excited for you to start your Bond journey and have the chance to meet your people, too!”



Georgia Gillibrand
2020

Unfortunately, my update this year is not filled with copious amounts of exciting new travel adventures! However, I have almost completed my first year of my Doctor of Physiotherapy at Curtin, and am absolutely loving it. Going back to study was definitely a shock to the system, but I have found my feet and am really enjoying the course. I'm still exploring which area of physio I want to pursue, and I will keep you posted as I move forward.

My partner, Sam, and I have moved out of home and have a little place in the heart of Subi, which we have been loving. To help us recover from our travel blues and to show Sam why West is best (he is from NZ), we have gone on multiple camping trips over the past year.

I went back to the Gold Coast for the first time since graduation earlier this year, to catch up with my friends that I haven't seen in 3 years! It really made me appreciate how special the friendships I made at Bond are, despite our long distance; seeing them was as though I had never left.

Congratulations to this year's recipient, you should be very proud of yourself! I am so excited for you to start your Bond journey and have the chance to meet your people, too! Soak up all the highs and lows of the next twoish years, because Bond time really does speed on by. My love and thanks to the Hohnen Family and Alex for all you do for this incredible scholarship, and to the beneficiaries for your continued support.

“I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for the honour of attending Bond, guided by Vynka's legacy.”



Lily Boisvert
2021

Congratulations to the 2026 Vynka Hohnen Scholar!

Consider this moment the first line of the first paragraph of the first chapter of this brand-new novel YOU get to write! See this opportunity as a portal to a whole new world of amazing experiences, beautiful friendships and unbelievable moments.

Not only have you earned this chance to attend Bond University, but you have also been bestowed the honour of carrying on the spirit of Vynka Hohnen. Cherish this honour, embrace every moment, and know that you will be surrounded by immense love and support.

In 2025, I commenced my Master of Arts: Screen Directing at the prestigious Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) in Sydney. These last 12 months have been spent buried in the rigour and intensity of the course, alongside the whirlwind of creating my Capstone film! I wrote and directed a 10-page, high-stakes, fast-paced coming-of-age drama titled Only Kids. After six months of development with industry mentors, we entered pre-production. In April this year, we shot the film over five days with a professional cast and crew.

The last few months have been spent deep in post-production: six weeks of editing, a trip to Melbourne for colour grading and networking at the Melbourne International Film Festival, sound design, mixing and, as I write this today... final sign-off! I am immensely proud of the film and the production practices we employed in the way it was made. Hopefully, when I write my update next year, I will have news about the life of the film after its completion, and I hope you will all get the chance to see it!

I complete my course at AFTRS in November. The only thing standing between me and graduating... is my 8,000-word exegesis! Upon completion, I have some exciting opportunities in the pipeline, but most importantly, I am excited to move back into the film industry with my newfound philosophies, taste and ambitions.

It is never lost on me that the opportunities I have been fortunate enough to experience were kick-started by the generosity of the Hohnen Family and Bond University. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for the honour of attending Bond, guided by Vynka's legacy. I will forever cherish this community and the support that continues to shape my path.

“I genuinely believe everything happens for some greater purpose, and while yours might not be clear yet, this opportunity is vital to grab with both hands.”



Lloyd Carver-Kriege
2022

Hello to whoever is the very fortunate recipient of the 2026 Vynka Hohnen Scholarship! I'll always say this to whoever gets the chance to step forward into this unsure and genuinely terrifying experience, so, this scholarship, and all of the friendships, experiences and doors it has opened for me, is something I am unfathomably grateful for. Putting yourself forward into this experience can be genuinely terrifying, but it's something you really just have to dive straight into.

When I wrote this newsletter last year, I didn't really know what I wanted to do within the industry or how to go about it. I was floating around, keeping myself occupied without feeling like I was moving forward. This year, however, it's an entirely different story. I made a promise to myself to be more proactive and, by the time this newsletter came around again, to look back and genuinely wow myself with how much had changed. It felt like time to make the most of the faith placed in a 17-year-old kid who needed some guidance. So, that's exactly what I did.

First came my health, so I could wake up looking good, and in turn, feeling great! Then came the increasingly terrifying "to-do" list: moving house, getting a car and finally sorting out the things I'd kept pushing away. And then, of course, came the biggest one: my career.

After going to the AACTA Festival, I made another deal with myself. If I felt like I'd properly ingrained myself within the industry by the end of the year, I'd treat myself to a ticket to the Awards Expo. To earn that, I went back to what I did at uni: throwing myself into absolutely everything.

Whether that meant what felt like 10 coffee dates a week with industry professionals, attending onboarding courses, or working on films made by the producers of Sharknado, I just kept saying yes. And it's finally paid off.

I've just signed a full-time contract with The Post Lounge! I'll be working in post-production on some of the biggest productions shooting in Australia, seeing the footage first-hand and watching how it all comes together. When I moved over here, I had no idea what my career would look like. I just knew I wanted to work in film, and this opportunity absolutely got me there. So, a bit of advice to you, whoever you are.

For some cosmic reason, this chance has landed in front of you. I genuinely believe everything happens for some greater purpose, and while yours might not be clear yet, this opportunity is vital to grab with both hands. Keep moving forward and giving yourself reasons to say yes. I don't know where this journey will all lead, but I'm further along than I was last year. I'm sure you'll find your own way of doing the same. I wish you the absolute best with everything that comes next. If you ever want some advice, or even just a chat over coffee, feel free to send me a message or give me a call. I'm always here to be a helping hand.



“The people you are about to meet may become some of the most important people in your life.”



Madeleine Gilmore
2023

To this year's recipient of the Vynka Hohnen Scholarship, congratulations and welcome to the wonderful community of fellow Vynkas! You should be incredibly proud of yourself and excited to embark on this next chapter on the Gold Coast at Bond University. If I could tell the version of myself standing in your shoes three years ago about everything that was ahead of her, the things I would achieve, people I would meet, places I would go and core memories I would make, I think she would fall over backwards. So, strap in and make the most of every moment!

Since completing my Bachelor of Design in Architecture, I am now in my third semester of the Master of Architecture at Bond. I have moved into an apartment with friends I first met living at the Blocks and started working part-time at Architectus in their Burleigh Heads office, gaining practical experience alongside my studies.

Outside architecture, I have continued running, swimming and surfing with friends while working with Surf Life Saving Queensland. In May, a group of us travelled to Noosa for a weekend to run the half marathon together. During the September University break, I also spent three weeks travelling through Europe with one of the friends I met during my time living at the Blocks. I then travelled to Lyon to visit another friend who was on exchange, someone I was fortunate enough to meet at the Bond Scholarship Assessment Weekend before I had even started university.

These friendships have become one of the most invaluable parts of my time at Bond. I still count my lucky stars for the incredible circle of people that has grown around me. The people you are about to meet may become some of the most important people in your life. Finally, my utmost gratitude goes to the Vynka Hohnen family, Alex Sceales and everyone involved in the scholarship. Your generosity has extended far beyond financial support. It has opened doors, introduced me to extraordinary people and experiences, and allowed me to build a life at Bond I could never have imagined three years ago.

Thank you for continuing to take an interest in my journey and for giving young people like myself an opportunity that can genuinely shape our lives. To the 2026 scholar, embrace every opportunity, friendship and unexpected adventure that comes your way. Welcome to Bond and, most importantly, welcome to the Vynka family.

“As a memorial scholarship, it is more than a personal accolade; it is a legacy.”



Keshav Dhruva
2024

First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the 2026 recipient of the prestigious Vynka Hohnen Scholarship. This is an extraordinary achievement, and you should be immensely proud of yourself. Take the time to prepare for the journey ahead and embrace every opportunity made possible by the wealth of resources, support, and community that Bond University provides.

I still vividly remember the Friday morning when Vice Chancellor Prof Tim Brailsford personally called me. Before even mentioning the award, he asked how my holiday had been and what my aspirations were for the future, before finally congratulating me on receiving this honour. That simple gesture meant the world to me, and I hope you too feel the weight of encouragement and belief this award represents. For me, the true significance of the scholarship lies not only in recognition, but in the responsibility it carries. This year, as my studies have stepped up, my focus has been on academics - deepening my skills in the mathematics and data science at the heart of actuarial studies. But I've kept trying new things, joining the driving club and picking up soccer along the way. All the while, I've been looking for a chance to give back, through voluntarily coaching badminton one-on-one to assisting at the Kollosche People's Ball - an inspiring experience that allowed me to contribute to charity while networking with community leaders.

To me, representing Bond as a Vynka Hohnen Scholar is a profound honour. As a memorial scholarship, it is more than a personal accolade; it is a legacy. It is a reminder to embody excellence, compassion, and leadership in a way that reflects the Hohnen's enduring spirit and the values of this University.

“Meet people you wouldn’t have otherwise.
Learn skills that you can use for the rest of your life.
Find what you love and get good at it.”



Jetlen Egerton-
Warburton
2025

Congratulations! You’re coming to Bond University! You have been given an incredible opportunity that is supported by a wide community of people. By the time you are reading this, I am sure you have already met some of the lovely alumni at this event and seen how tight-knit the whole community is. I personally can’t wait to meet you here, and if you have any questions or need any help when you are moving over, feel free to reach out.

This year has been incredible, to be frank. I was quite scared at first, moving interstate with little to no connections and leaving my family behind. This fear was quickly forgotten when I realised Bond University really is the place to be. There are so many things to do, places to see and people to meet over here.

I have settled in quite well. I am deeply enjoying my studies in law and international relations, and I made the Executive Dean’s List last semester. No matter what you are studying, I’m sure you will enjoy it immensely. That’s one thing I have definitely felt is different to high school. When you are studying something you are genuinely interested in, it no longer feels like a chore or a task to be completed. Thus, your time spent studying flies by (in most cases at least).

I also love that Bond is such a personal university. I don’t know if, at any other university in Australia, you could genuinely guarantee that all of your professors know your name and know who you are. It really cemented my feeling of belonging at Bond. For example, one of my first-semester law professors is now a close friend, and she always offers help if I need it, regardless of the subject or area of my life. I even tutor her daughter in high school literature and maths. That’s what has made my Bond experience amazing so far. It is the host of small connections that I have made solely by leaving the little Perth bubble.

As for the co-curricular side, you can pursue anything and everything you want over here. I take part in three sports, four clubs and numerous other Bond-based activities. I even co-founded the Bond University Dodgeball Club to compete in University Nationals later this year in Perth. The opportunities outside of just study that are on the Gold Coast are simply incredible.

If I had some advice for you, it would be to use the opportunity you have been given to the fullest. Meet people you wouldn’t have otherwise. Learn skills that you can use for the rest of your life. Find what you love and get good at it. You can accomplish all of these and more through Bond, but particularly through the scholarship you have been given. While it feels slightly presumptuous of me to say this, I am not sure you understand the power of the gift you have been given. Me personally, I am still discovering how it helps me every day.

Most importantly of all, I would like to thank the Hohnen family, Alex Sceales and friends, who have made this entire opportunity possible for both of us. I don’t know if I will ever be able to fully express my gratitude to them. It is an honour to represent their values and their community through all my actions here at Bond. It still makes me proud to have been afforded the honour of this scholarship, and you should be proud as well. I can’t wait to meet you over here!

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