

Monday June 5, 2017

FROM BEECHWOOD TO THE BIG TIME

At the tender age of 17, Olivia Carrett has found her true calling, which by her own admission, came when she least expected it.

As a Year 10 student, Olivia was motivated to leave school and hit the workforce. She wasn't sure in what capacity - she just knew that school wasn't for her.

But it was a last-ditch effort by her Careers Counsellor to keep her in school that would go on to quite literally transform her life, and the lives of so many others in the process.

Olivia was presented the opportunity to be part of the School Based Apprenticeship program in Aged Care through NSW TAFE, working as a Carer at Bundaleer in the Cameron St Facility.

The move also meant transferring high schools and enrolling in Newman College in Port Macquarie for Year 11 and 12, where she is now thriving academically.

Olivia juggles her studies with working at least two x 8 hour shifts a week at Bundaleer tending to the care needs for a group of 10 residents, who all adore her, as well as working casually at the Beechwood Café and Bar. Impressive for one so young.

Now in her second year of the School Based Apprenticeship program, Olivia has so impressed her Clinical Managers at Bundaleer that she was nominated for the North Coast School Based Trainee of the Year, 2017 and against stiff competition in a hotly contested field, Olivia has been announced as one of only three finalists.

The winner will be announced at the Awards Ceremony in Byron Bay on Friday June 16, 2017 and will then move on to compete at a State level in September and, if successful, a National level in November.

And you can't wipe the smile from her face. "I know it sounds really corny, but I really am thrilled just to be nominated. Aged Care is not something I had ever considered before, but now it's my passion. I love it. I really, really love it. I look forward to coming to work every day and seeing my residents. Being there to help them in their time of need is a real honour and there is nothing else like it.

This whole thing is such an amazing experience, it's a lifetime opportunity. At worst I get to go to Byron Bay for the weekend, which is somewhere I have never been; and at best I walk away with the title of "North Coast School Based Trainee of the Year", Olivia said.

Olivia is hoping that this award may become a family tradition as her sister-in-law won the North Coast School Based Trainee of the year in 2009 (in Hospitality) and her younger sister has recently started a School Based Apprenticeship in Childcare.

Regardless, at the end of this year Olivia will have achieved her HSC and a Certificate III in Aged Care and with her aspirations to go to University to become a Registered Nurse, Olivia Carrett is a star on the rise.

For any questions or interview opportunities please contact Brooke Hodgson on 02) 6585 2811.

