

ALUMNI PROFILE

Jack Arbuckle 2012 - 2015

FILM CREATIVE

(PRODUCING, EDITING
AND WRITING FOR FILM)

“When I was at MAC,
I learned so much about
community, the outdoors
and being okay with not
quite fitting in.”



— TE KURA O TITITEA —
MOUNT ASPIRING COLLEGE

One of Jack’s goals is to start his own production company and his time at MAC has put him on a solid footing to achieve his goal. He believes that the support of his teachers across a range of disciplines has helped him get him on the path he is pursuing today.

“My drama teacher Emily McRae, Drama and English teacher Gena Bagley, Outdoor Pursuits teachers Luke Faed, and Dave Cassaidy and deputy principal Vicki Ashton went out of their way to help me,” he explains.

“At school, I really enjoyed studying Drama, Economics, English and Outdoor Pursuits and the knowledge and skills I picked up during my studies at MAC have proved invaluable in my life since leaving school and entering a career in the film industry.”

After finishing school, Jack did a Rotary overseas exchange in Leeds in the UK and went to university in Wellington where he achieved his Masters in Film.

“Educationally, the teachers I had were fantastic, but the lessons I learned from living and studying in Wānaka are impossible to replicate anywhere else. Wānaka provided a playground outdoors that allowed me to burn off some of my ADHD energy, which in turn helped me study better.”

For Jack, MAC was a place where he was encouraged to be himself and find a pathway that worked for him.

“Some teachers taught me that there is the ‘normal’ way to do things but others realised my disability and helped me adapt in a way that worked best for me,” explains Jack.

“Film is an extremely flexible and non-traditional industry that allows me to be myself, which is what MAC ultimately taught me: that it’s okay to be different.

“Film is something that has provided a platform for me. I can do 20 different jobs or roles without needing to stick to something and only be good at that one thing.”

These days, Jack works at WetaFX, a leading company in the film industry that creates visual effects and animation.

“I love working at WetaFX because it is giving me the opportunity to work in post production.

“I mainly want to work in pre- and on-set production in films, and working at Weta FX has allowed me to see how post production is done on a massive scale on some of the most anticipated films that are coming to cinema.

“I am getting to work with some amazingly talented people and I am learning so much about the film industry.”

Jack’s advice to current MAC students is that it’s okay if you don’t know exactly what you want to do when you finish school.

“It’s really good just to try things you enjoy in areas you are keen to work in. Further study and trades are not for everyone so just be open to trying new things so you can find out what works for you.”