

ALUMNI PROFILE

Finn Bilous 2010 - 2017

OLYMPIC SKIER

“I'm a believer that if you're truly passionate about something, you'll pursue it with an unwavering desire to make it work in your life.”



In February 2018, only three months after graduating from MAC, Finn competed at the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

As Finn explains, support from his teachers at MAC and the value they placed on his pursuit of sporting success played an important role in helping him become a world-class athlete.

“I loved the community at MAC, spending time with friends every day and the flexibility within the schooling structure for students to complete their work alongside extracurricular commitments.

“I spent lots of time outside of the classroom to pursue my skiing.

“Yet my teachers trusted me to complete my school work on time and would hold me accountable if I didn't.

“Their support has made such a positive impact on my life, equipping me to manage my time well and be intrinsically motivated to achieve what I set out to do.”

In 2022, Finn was given the honour of being the flag bearer for New Zealand at the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics in Beijing, China.

“Walking into the Bird's Nest, holding the New Zealand flag with a strong team of kiwis was a huge honour for me and a moment I'll never forget.

“These days, I'm skiing professionally, spending up to six months of the year overseas competing and working with my sponsors to create new products and content.

“I'm also studying Design Innovation extramurally through Victoria University in Wellington.”
Finn hopes to combine his interests in design with his skiing career.

“I'd like to help innovate new products and content that are functional, aesthetic and inspiring to the user.

“I'm also looking forward to progressing my skiing in different directions. I've been really enjoying adapting my riding to more natural features outside of the terrain park so I'm looking forward to doing more backcountry skiing, free ride contests and film projects with my sponsors and friends.”

For Finn, having the courage to chase his passions is what made all the difference for him.

“I remember finishing high school and feeling a sense of pressure to follow a more traditional route in life such as going to university or doing a trade.

“For those students who are at this crossroad and are not finding the traditional pathways too appealing, my advice would be to chase your passions, even if you don't know what these passions might look like in a professional sense.

