

## ALUMNI PROFILE

**Luke Burke** 2012 - 2017

**CONTROLS ENGINEER**

**“I’d encourage today’s MAC students to give things a go and not be afraid to suck at stuff for a while - that’s just part of the learning process.”**



For Luke, it was Mount Aspiring College’s wealth of extra-curricular activities that made his time at MAC especially engaging.

“My experience at MAC was that it had a lot to give students. I’m hugely appreciative of the many teachers who were really generous with their time,” he says.

“I have a lot of teachers to thank for giving me fantastic opportunities and help, including Heather Watt, Simon Nyhoff, Emily McRae, and Denise Bruns.

“I’d like to especially acknowledge the influence Mat Doyle had on my time at school. He was my music teacher and was passionate about what he taught and worked exceptionally hard to give us opportunities.

“He hooked me up with my first proper job as a sound-tech and introduced me to numerous people in the music industry.”

After leaving school, Luke went straight into a four-year Mechatronics Engineering degree at the University of Canterbury completing his degree with first-class honours.

“I’m just at the beginning of my professional career in engineering but I am excited about what it will bring,” he says.

“I’m currently working as a controls engineer for Scotts in industrial automation which means I’m responsible for designing and writing programs for factory machines,” he explains.

“I do a lot of coding and there’s also a great deal of hands-on mechanical and electrical work. It’s especially exciting when we’re commissioning a new machine, as my job becomes pure problem solving.

“I love the variety of work and I have my mechatronics degree to thank for giving me a really broad range of engineering skills.”

Luke has also been keeping up with his music.

“I perform at the occasional open mic night and I still have a bit to do with the Wānaka Festival of Colour acting scene.

“We are so lucky to grow up in a town like Wānaka with such a great school and local community.

“I’d encourage today’s MAC students to give things a go and not be afraid to suck at stuff for a while - that’s just part of the learning process.

“Just make the most of it really.”



— TE KURA O TITITEA —  
MOUNT ASPIRING COLLEGE