

ALUMNI PROFILE

Sam Howard^Z 2012 - 2018

GLOBAL EXPORTATION SALES

“Finding an enjoyable learning subject that motivates you to work hard is likely to flow on to great opportunities after you leave school.”



— TE KURA O TITITEA —
MOUNT ASPIRING COLLEGE

Sometimes it can be one teacher or one pivotal experience at school that can put a student on their path to success.

For Sam Howard, that teacher was Roy Gawn, and the experience was attending the new ‘Agribusiness in schools’ class over Years 12 and 13.

“I enjoyed the Agribusiness class immensely and thanks to Roy’s passion for the course and his belief in me, I felt motivated to strive for the best marks possible,” says Sam.

“My achievements in Agribusiness gave me a university lifeline. I didn’t achieve very highly in other school subjects due to a lack of enjoyment and ultimately my motivation.

“Agribusiness opened up a pathway to Lincoln University which paved the way for a career in the primary industries.”

After graduating from university with a Bachelor of Agribusiness and Food Marketing, Sam was selected from among 230 applicants for one of three jobs with Silver Fern Farms, New Zealand’s largest red meat company.

“In 2022, I was in a corporate livestock rotation for my first one-year rotation. I was involved with consumer-led, on-farm auditing, logistical Livestock allocations and organising on-farm greenhouse gas emission calculation workshops with Beef + Lamb NZ for the government’s emission trading scheme,” explains Sam.

“I have completed a year in a sales exportation rotation where I’ve been looking after customers in markets such as Australia, South Africa, Mauritius, the Indian Ocean islands, Fiji, and the Pacific islands.

“My job involves monitoring variables such as fluctuating exchange rates, floating production levels, external economic factors affecting demand and pricing, as well as logistics and executing the final step of the supply chain.”

Sam says he is extremely excited about the career-based opportunities he will have in the future.

“I would like to travel and work overseas, including experiencing different parts of the world with my close friends and living out of a backpack.

“I’m also looking forward to investigating career opportunities in the UK, helping me establish a strong career foundation before returning to New Zealand.”

Sam believes that every student can be ambitious and strive for greatness at MAC.

“I didn’t fully apply myself until Year 12 at MAC when I realised that doing well in agribusiness was paramount for my future.

“I also considered going to Dunedin or Christchurch for further opportunities in rugby, but instead, I stayed at MAC and worked extremely hard to perform at a high level, playing three years of First XV.

“I proved to myself and others that you can succeed in mainstream sports from Wānaka and I had the honour of being the first MAC player to be selected for the Highlanders school team and representing Otago Country under 18s.

“Finding an enjoyable learning subject that motivates you to work hard is likely to flow on to great opportunities after you leave school.”