Tarremah Reflections
Linden Scholes, 2011 graduate

Glinting grassy threads of a field, murmuring soft warm colours, scraping sounds of pencils on paper, subtle hints of baked breads, hallowed notes of a music class nearby, a ferocious thud of boot on trail, these are the building blocks that stick in my mind when I think of a Tarremah education. My name is Linden Scholes and I graduated from Tarremah in 2011 from class 10. I began my journey there in kindergarten all those seasonal festivals ago, before the ball courts, before the oval and before the high school’s mortar and brick. I am currently a 1st year Medical Student at UTAS studying to be a doctor, to heal.

Tarremah is a place where an emphasis on building identity and social skills is the focus, especially in the early years. For good reason too, it is no mystery to me as to why I have always been able to speak to adults so easily, why I have no issue/embarrassment asking a teacher/lecturer for help and why I have no barriers to putting my hand up to answer a question in a lecture theatre of 200 knowing I am probably wrong. Tarremah created a dynamic where teachers were not only there to give you an education, they were there to be your friend, to speak with you and feel with you. Having that one teacher all through primary school gives the space and time required for them to get to know each student individually. Developing an identity for yourself before you encounter the realities of academic advancement for me is essential to progress and I trace all my successes to it.

Small class groups make for a supportive environment to develop your social skills with other students. Now whether it was that fateful day that I joined a group of gnome pretending students out in the tree bark that fused our friendship for the next 15 years I am unsure, but the fact is my best friends are still the ones I made at Tarremah.

The thing I wish to leave this reflection with is the idea that it is passion that drives success. Maybe the idea about attempting to drill academia in all its forms into a child in an attempt to preload or fabricate a predisposition for success may not be the way forward, it certainly was not for me. I come from a family of artists, my mother is an author and my father is a film director. I had not pressures to be anything, and with the aid of Tarremah I was given the space to decide for myself. For me the outdoor education program at Tarremah is what instilled my passion for the world. In fact in my years at Tarremah, I did not succeed academically nearly at all. The fact was though I was passionate about other things, blacksmithing, guitar, social development, physical activity, any chance I had to suck the world dry of what it had to offer in terms of what I saw as intriguing, I would pounce upon. It was a small effort to direct this passion for learning to my studies as opposed to trying to develop my passion or motivation from nothing.

So with the teacher-student bond development, the social skills, friends and passion that Tarremah gave me, I was able to achieve my current step in my life’s journey; Medicine, and what better way to approach a course such as that with the trusty 5 C’s under my belt. The time I had at Tarremah I will cherish till the end of my days.

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Regards, Linden Scholes

(The best wombat impersonator in class 3)
Rather than giving up all hope I have chosen to arm in triumph, while clutching your prized golf ball. When I feel like there is no way I am going to be able to achieve my goals or fulfil my dreams, I remember back to finding my very own golf ball, after all the hard work pushing myself I finally did it, I found a little white ball. Now some might not understand what all the fuss was about, but finally finding that golf ball taught me a lesson that I could never forget; that perseverance and determination can mean the difference between settling for what you have and going after what you want.

At Tarremah the abilities and nature of each child is recognised, developed and respected. It is because each day before classes started we would line up, shake our teachers hand and say good morning. There are no floppy fish handshakes at Tarremah, and this respect and trust is extended to each and every lesson.

My time at Tarremah developed me in ways that I didn’t realise until I graduated and moved on to College. I have been given the self-confidence, initiative and social consciousness to be able to excel at learning and also to be able to inspire others to achieve.

Leadership and teamwork are virtues that my class and I learnt through the extensive outdoor education program and other curriculum activities like house group performances and the swimming carnival. The most challenging and memorable camp we went on was the Overland track in year ten. On this camp the whole class came together in such a way that we will always remember that it made me to be positive and always get up after a fall. I was taught that to achieve my goals I had to persevere, in the words of Dr. Seuss; “And what will you succeed? Yes! You will indeed! (98 and ¾ percent guaranteed). KID YOU WILL MOVE MOUNTAINS!” I want my opportunity to move mountains. Just like finding that golf ball, I plan to recover from CFS and inspire in others the desire and drive to get better.

So thank you Tarremah and its community,

Regards
Casey Clarke
Graduating Class of 2012