

AS A QUALIFIED  
ANTHROPOLOGIST AND  
A FINAL YEAR MEDICAL  
STUDENT, **CASSIE SMITH (03)**  
HAS ALREADY ACHIEVED  
A GREAT DEAL.

## Grabbing Opportunities with Both Hands

Setting up a Club Foot Clinic in Madagascar is one of her most significant achievements so far. Raising \$10,000 to personally fund her first trip (and more), Cassie eventually consolidated a clinic that worked culturally and practically.

*"It is particularly rewarding to see the clinic almost fully functional and sustainable. Providing a clinic service well aligned with the local culture, allows ongoing operation without external support, which is a fundamental aspect of a good aid programme."*

At School, Cassie achieved sound academic results across a range of subjects. In sport, she was broadly talented and particularly passionate about Hockey, earning numerous accolades.

*"I grew up as an outdoorsy girl who loved reading, writing and philosophising. I am not sure why I chose Physics as an Upper School subject but I remember feeling hopelessly lost in it. Mr Andy Cowan took the time to establish that I really wanted to continue with Physics and then tutored me during his own lunch breaks. As a 16 year old, those tutorials seemed to be a serious waste of our lunchtimes but today I use Physics in both the practical and theoretical application of Medicine. I am enormously grateful for the understanding of Physics that Mr Cowan nurtured in me, and*

*even more so, the belief I gained that I could do something that had seemed beyond my capacity."*

Leaving BCGS, Cassie spent a year at high school in Italy, learning Italian and eating pasta. A degree in Psychology and Anthropology followed, with minors in Politics and International Relations. First Class Honours in Anthropology focused Cassie on interactions between people and technology, and their impact on community. Two years' work as an Anthropologist with a

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start-up cultural resource management company helped her identify her health focus, realising that Medicine and Anthropology would be a great combination.

While completing a Master of Public Health in Melbourne, Cassie took the challenge to review an unsuccessful Club

Foot Treatment Programme in Madagascar for Australian Doctors for Africa. In the meantime, she accepted a place in Medical School at The University of Western Australia, moving back to Perth to learn about the human body, in sickness and in health.

*"My life has been a series of doors, sometimes closing in what seemed to be a devastating failure but actually opening amazing opportunities that I grabbed with both hands. Those opportunities have carved out a life I could not have imagined but is now my reality."*

Looking to the future, Cassie plans to practise clinical Medicine while she continues to publish in Anthropology, with Medicine and Health as her focus.

*"I plan to work, play and learn continuously for the rest of my life."*

**Mrs Margaret Paterson**  
:: School Archivist

