

GRAND GRAMMARIAN

AT BCGS **DAVID BUDGE (87)**
WAS A NATURAL LEADER WHO
MADE A VAST CONTRIBUTION
TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

Physical Sciences were his greatest academic strength. He displayed an insatiable appetite for knowledge and understanding, achieving many outstanding results. David openly acknowledges the impact of teachers who genuinely cared about his wellbeing. He found the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award led by Chris Gibbs to be an amazing opportunity and is especially grateful to Physics teacher Mr Cress Thursby-Pelham who truly believed in him.

Leaving BCGS, David studied science at University, majoring in Chemistry and Material Science. Three years into these studies, he realised that science could not answer all of his questions. Taking a year off, David travelled Australia, worked in a wide range of jobs and did a lot of reading and introspection. Eventually he concluded that life had a spiritual component that was worth pursuing. Returning to his studies, David completed his degree and worked in industry before setting up his own business.

"My first business went fairly well but then failed spectacularly. That process left me somewhat bitter, and essentially burnt out. I spent the next

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Making a Positive Difference

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six months chilling out on a couch but concluded that I needed to contribute something back to society."

David then worked in service stations for about 12 months before a change that ultimately led him into heavy engineering. While at the last service station he met his wife, proving that even potentially terrible events can lead to remarkably positive outcomes. After a number of

years in heavy engineering, David started a company called Advance Industrial Manufacturing, using robots to manufacture equipment. He also proposed to his now wife and they had their first child.

"Starting a new business and a new family at the

same time is not a simple process! After a few years things stabilised, we had our second child and more recently our third. Marrying my wife and having children have been my most significant achievements so far, as well as working to make a positive difference in the world."

More recently, his hobby of making liquid cooled rocket motors grew into Aurora

Labs. With hard work and persistence, the company was listed on the ASX in August 2016. Since then, it has grown to its current market valuation of \$161 million dollars.

David has a strong spiritual component to his life that he loosely describes as Buddhist. It has been an important aspect of his life since his early 20s and he has imbedded this into his business and life practises.

In the future, David aims to develop a programme training young entrepreneurs to build highly successful companies and educate them to navigate the incredible ups and downs of being an entrepreneur.

"I am a serial entrepreneur with a whole heap of other ideas and projects that I would like to commercialise at some stage in the future."

Mrs Margaret Paterson
:: School Archivist

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