



## ACK Story: Chloe Molloy (Class of 2016)

### 1. *Can you please share with us what you've been doing since recently leaving ACK?*

The past 18 months have been a crazy time for me. After graduating Year 12, I had a major decision to make; accept a Division 1 American Basketball scholarship to Virginia Commonwealth University (4 years all-inclusive education, living etc.) or back myself to be drafted into the newly formed AFL Womens League. I chose the latter.

After deciding to stay in Australia, I entered a Sports Media course at Holmesglen in Chadstone. I played TAC Cup football with the Calder Cannons in 2017, where we won the inaugural premiership and I was fortunate to be recognised as the TAC Cup Best & Fairest and leading goal kicker. The club also awarded me the Calder Cannons Meg McArthur Medallist and leading goal kicker. After the TAC Cup season, I began my senior's journey at Diamond Creek Women's Football Club in the VFLW. I enjoyed every moment of this challenging season and our team made it to the Grand Final, which was held at Etihad Stadium. Unfortunately, we were unable to beat our major rivals, Darebin, in the final encounter. Sadly for me, I also suffered a sprained AC Joint in my shoulder during the third quarter and was unable to complete the game.

Diamond Creek honoured me with the leading goal kicker award and runner up best and fairest. I was also extremely privileged to be awarded the VFLW leading goal kicker, Team of the Year, and Rising Star award. I had completed a strong season, but I was still unsure if I had done enough to attract the interest of the AFLW Clubs.

I had always barracked for Collingwood growing up, so the news on October 18 that I was to be drafted by Collingwood FC with pick three overall, was absolutely overwhelming for me. My pre-season with the Pies was brutal, but I became much fitter and stronger and was ready and excited for the start of the 2018 AFLW season. My debut game was against Carlton. We lost the game, but I was thrilled to be nominated as the Round 1 NAB AFLW Rising Star.

The season passed very quickly and the Pies finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place. A disappointing outcome for our team, but an incredible personal experience for me. I couldn't believe my good fortune to be recognised at the AFLW league awards with the overall NAB Rising Star award and selection on the AFLW All Australian team. I was also hugely surprised when judged by the umpires to be runner-up in the league best and fairest. It summed up a great season and hopefully heralds an exciting journey ahead for me.

Despite all the madness of adapting to life in AFL football, I have also managed to balance my studies, work and social life. I am in my second year of full-time study as a University student. I am living with my partner in Mordialloc and we have been blessed with the cutest golden retriever ever.

### 2. *What years did you attend ACK and how did ACK prepare you for your current role?*

I had six years at ACK; from 2011 to 2016. Above everything else, ACK taught me to be organised and disciplined in everything I do. I have a hectic life and organisation is incredibly important for me. ACK also prepared me for leadership (where I was the house leader of Hilary.) In sport, I aspire to be a leader, and this experience during my secondary school years, serves me well in my sporting career.

3. *What did you think of your teachers and coaches at ACK?*

I had a great relationship with my teachers. I was always open with them about my sporting commitments, and overall the teachers/coaches were fantastic in accommodating me. I'm not sure other schools would have been as supportive of an aspiring athlete? One teacher in particular stands out to me most from my time at Assumption. Judita Turco was a friend and a teacher; someone I could always go to for guidance on anything.

4. *Are there many people from your days at ACK you still remain in contact with?*

I am still very close with my two best friends, Peta Ellks and Teagan Brady. We went right through primary and secondary school together. I stay in constant touch with them. They are great support and we are always messaging each other.

5. *Some people believe success is a product of luck and coincidence. Looking back on your journey after ACK, and all you are achieving, would you agree with them?*

Success definitely has aspects of luck. For me I have been extremely fortunate the AFLW was introduced when it was, otherwise I would now be in America wishing I was back home playing football. But when I review my own journey and consider other athletes I admire, there is enormous work involved in achieving anything worthwhile. The gruelling running sessions, gym sessions and extra skill sessions, are all designed to bring out an individual's best. Having a great team around me, to push and encourage me, is invaluable, but without determination and persistence, luck matters little overall.

6. *What values are most important for you to live by?*

Self-belief. Honesty. Hard work. Enjoyment. A winning formula in my opinion!

7. *Which people have had the most influence on your life and why?*

My mum has been a huge influence on my life. She challenges me. She encourages me. She is always there for me, regardless of the circumstances. She is the major reason for being where and who I am today. Also, my partner and best friend Steph Chiocci has been very influential on me. She is extremely humble and someone I look up to as a role model. Steph has brought the best out in me on and off the sporting field.

8. *When did you consider yourself to be successful?*

I may have achieved some individual success, but I am far from considering myself successful. My chosen sport is a team game. In order for me to be successful, my team has to be. The moment my team achieves greatness, through winning an AFLW premiership, is the moment I will believe I have been successful.

9. *Is there a particular failure you remember most vividly? And what did you learn from the experience?*

I have failed so many times. There is not one particular moment of failure that I immediately recall. But I strongly believe, from every moment of failure a lesson is learnt. No matter how big or small, it is through trying and failing, where one learns. There has never been an athlete or business person in the world who has not made a mistake or failed at some time. Failing is a valuable reminder you are trying and developing. No-one is perfect to start with.

10. *If you had one piece of advice to share with the current Year 12 ACK students preparing for life after school, what would it be?*

My advice to the current students would be very short and simple (as I don't like to over complicate things!) Follow your heart. Do what you want to do. Identify a career you will be happy in and then 'go for it!' Seek advice, but always follow your heart.