



Rouse Hill Anglican Collegians

2021 Collegian of the Year – Olivia Tyson

Since graduating from Rouse Hill Anglican College in 2016, Olivia Tyson has shown passion in sharing her faith, and assisting children with high levels of disadvantage and from low socioeconomic areas.

Olivia is passionate about youth ministry and has been part of multiple youth and Bible studies groups throughout the past few years. In particular, Olivia was part of a small team that started a Youth Group continuing online during the COVID-19 lockdowns. Olivia also participated in a two-week trip to Thailand where she ran a children's program for missionaries that are part of SIM working in Thailand.

While working her way through university, Olivia has been an active member of the Christian Union, Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students. Her participation involves weekly training, contacting and following up with group members, writing and delivering Bible studies. For three years Olivia was a Faculty Leader of the Arts and Psychology faculty Christian Union during which time she was instrumental in organising evangelistic events, running a faculty Facebook page and meeting with other faculty leaders and staff.

"Here in Australia we were all affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns that were concerning and challenging. In the midst of our lockdown it was easy to forget how many other countries were affected so much more than us. For those of us who couldn't work, we were helped by the government. In Fiji, tourism is the largest industry and one that was significantly affected by the lack of travel. Other industries were also affected and saw so many people struggling to make ends meet and put food on the table. This is particularly the case for those in isolated villages far away from cities and towns. When I visited Fiji for a month in 2017, I stayed with a local family. As is common, the family I stayed with relied on other family members living in the city and working in tourism, to send part of their income back to the village. There is no government support.

"Throughout the pandemic I, like everyone else, struggled with the lockdown and not being able to do the things I enjoy, like seeing my family and friends, and going to cafes and restaurants. But like so many others in Australia, I never worried about having enough food to eat. Anglican Aid's Year 13 Fiji COVID-19 Emergency Appeal works to provide those in Fiji with food and other essential supplies. I am thankful that this fund, and many others like it, exists to provide a practical and easy way for me (and us) to support those in an island nation close by."

2021 will see Olivia finish her final year of a four-year degree in Psychology and Primary Education. Olivia is passionate about the possibility of working in schools with high levels of disadvantage and in low socioeconomic areas.

"I am delighted and honoured to be named as this year's Collegian of the Year. It is a privilege for my name to be included with the Collegians of the past and their accomplishments. I am thankful for the donation to the Fiji COVID-19 Emergency Appeal. Throughout my teenage years and time at Rouse Hill Anglican College I was challenged in my personal faith and identity as I grew up. I am thankful for the supportive people in my life who, during this time of questioning and growth, were patient with me, answering my questions and pointing me back to the Bible and the person of Jesus, particularly his never-changing character in an ever-changing world. Through Jesus working in the lives of those around me, I was able to see how he was working in my life and grow in my trust and love of him. This motivates me in my work and ministry, to encourage and love those younger than me by pointing them to Jesus wherever and whenever possible."

Thanks to Olivia's award of Collegian of the Year, our **Parents and Friends Association** will be donating to the Year 13 Fiji COVID-19 Emergency Appeal. If you wish to join them or find out more, please visit

<https://anglicanaid.org.au/fiji-year-13-covid-emergency-relief/>

