



2019 Collegian of the Year – Stephanie Lockhart

Stephanie has always had a passion to help others and has been involved in a number Christian-based service and mission programs since graduating in 2015. During her time at the College Stephanie participated in the 2014 and 2015 Service Trips, 40 Hour Famine, See You at the Pole, The Gap, and The Smith Family 1:1 Reading Project. Stephanie's leadership skills and her passion to help others resulted in the award of Prefect with the portfolio of Drama and Court House Captain in Year Twelve.

Stephanie's first visit to Fiji was as a participant of the M28 Year 13 program at St Paul's Anglican Church, where she attends regularly. That trip inspired Stephanie to do more.

In 2017, Stephanie returned to Fiji to study at the University of the South Pacific for a semester. During her time there, she had the opportunity to volunteer to do research alongside Monash University and the Asian Development Bank in improving the environmental conditions in squatter settlements.

In 2018, Save the Children Fiji offered Stephanie an unpaid internship over a four week period through the Macquarie University PACE program as part of her social science and anthropology degree.

Also in 2018, Stephanie travelled with Compassion to Thailand supporting and empowering the local church in their mission to release children from poverty. While in Thailand, Stephanie met with churches on the Thai-Myanmar border and learnt about their struggles, while having the opportunity to hear their testimonies and share her own. Stephanie now continues to support the work of Compassion by sponsoring a child of her own.

While at home Stephanie is the Year Coordinator, leading and supporting the team of Year Nine leaders at youth group at church and volunteers for the Blue Army, where she served at Christmas in the Hills and supported the anti-human trafficking movement of A21.

In 2019, Stephanie commenced work at McCrindle – a social research company where she has had the chance to research a range of topics, such as food insecurity in Australia with the hunger relief organisation Foodbank. Also in 2019, Stephanie visited Cambodia with Pacific Hills Christian School where she had the opportunity to learn about Christian education in a Buddhist country and the challenges they face. Stephanie will also be attending Voices for Justice with Micah Australia in November on a trip to Canberra to advocate for Australian aid in the Pacific region which is an ongoing passion of hers.

Stephanie has nominated *International Justice Mission* for the Parents & Friends Association's donation of \$2,000. "I am passionate about giving all people the best opportunity to thrive in the life that God has given them. I believe *International Justice Mission* does this well by seeking to release people from slavery and develop solutions for a range of issues that are impacting people around the world."

