



Alumni News

A quarterly newsletter to keep you in touch with happenings at MRIS (formerly Nyindamurra Family School)
Edition 8 August 2019

Eighth Edition

Welcome to the eighth edition of our *Alumni News*, a publication keeping students connected with Margaret River Independent School, formerly Nyindamurra Family School.

Inspired by our 30th anniversary in 2012, we are reconnecting with former students via an Alumni List and this quarterly newsletter, featuring updates from past students and contemporary school news.

We want to share your news & memories of the school and maintain strong links with you for the future. We invite you to visit the Alumni section on the school's website @ www.mris.wa.edu.au and see all our news on Facebook.

Please join our Alumni List, share some memories with us for future editions and perhaps include a current photo of yourself at work or play or with your family.

For information contact Melissa White (melissa.white@mr.is.wa.edu.au) or the school on 08 9757 7515.

Positive change through Healthcare Tech!



At work: Recovery Companion CEO, Byron Sowerby.

A passion for finding innovative ways to use technology in healthcare has elevated former Nyindamurra student, Byron Sowerby into the CEO of his own company.

A student at the school for 6 years, Byron is now pursuing a career in medical technology and is the co-founder and CEO of a visionary new company called Recovery Companion <https://www.facebook.com/RecovCompanion/>

The company is a health care initiative that connects individuals who have survived cancer or have cancer as well as other diseases. "Peer to peer exchange is a game-changer in healthcare, Byron said. "What better way to understand your disease than with someone else who is also going through the same thing."

A long way from home: Byron now lives and works in Estonia in Northern Europe.

"I draw energy from making a positive change in my environment. Recovery Companion helps counteract mental health issues, particularly anxiety and depression, brought about by the social isolation that often comes with the diagnosis of many types of diseases."

After leaving school, Byron studied a Bachelor of Science majoring in Biochemistry and Human Physiology at UWA. Last year he received a \$22,000 scholarship to TalTech in Estonia to study a master of healthcare technology and explore the startup opportunities.

"Originally the idea was aimed to help intervene with opioid dependency picked up in hospitals," Byron said. TalTech is an innovative university where you can learn many entrepreneurial skills and has ties to many startup incubators- all the stuff to help get a product going. Internationally the university is famous for inventing Skype."

Byron credits MRIS with helping him to achieve an exciting, meaningful career. "It was a great education; a perfect combination of creativity and critical thinking that gives a definite advantage in our modern world."

FutureFives Project

You are invited to contribute a multiple of 5 (\$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$500) each term.

This project follows the school's Bush School motto— *From little things, big things grow* — demonstrating that small ongoing contributions can assist with big developments.

See the website www.mris.wa.edu.au for further information