

'Glenny Alumni Program' Spotlight - Ryan Lester

A champion classmate and footballer - our GWSC Grand Final winner!



Ryan Lester studied at Glen Waverley Secondary College from 2005 - 2010, and used his time at school to set the foundation for his future sporting excellence! Ryan took advantage of all the different opportunities available at GWSC, competing in cross country, athletics, swimming, basketball, baseball, cricket, and AFL. While his favourite memories are from his time out of the classroom and on the sporting field(s), particularly his part in winning the state championship in baseball, he valued each part of school and recognised the importance of balancing his studies and sporting success.

“Keep a balance in your life. I am proud that I put time into my studies, sport, and time with my friends and family. The people who are able to balance all these are who I perceive to generally be the happiest and most successful.”

Affectionately known as 'Froggy' by his teammates, Ryan was drafted by the Brisbane Lions in 2010, moving interstate to pursue his dream of becoming an AFL footballer. Ryan has overcome adversity through his career, playing in the reserves team (where his leadership credentials were recognised after being named captain of the Brisbane VFL team) at times and having to fight for his place in the starting lineup. However, throughout these challenges, Ryan demonstrated the strong work ethic, persistence, and selflessness that has earned him the respect and trust of his teammates as a member of the leadership group. During COVID-19 lockdowns in 2020, Ryan volunteered his own house as a shared space for his teammates to train at, setting up a gym in the garage known as the 'Frog Pit'.

“One of those people that genuinely cares about you and really wants to know about you” -

Cam Rayner

“He’s got great care and empathy for people and he’s always willing to help them”

- Danny Daly

After playing through a heartbreaking loss in the 2023 AFL Grand Final, Ryan returned to experience premiership success as Brisbane won the premiership in 2024! Across his career Ryan has played 207 games, one of only 13 players in club history to play over 200 games and securing life membership status at Brisbane. Off the field, Ryan is proud of completing his Bachelor of Business at Swinburne during his playing career (another example of 'keeping balance in your life'), and enjoys spending time with his family and friends. In the future, he is hoping to move into the business sector or football administration.



To our current and future Year 12 students, Ryan advises you to enjoy your time at Cowes Camp at the beginning of the year and to look forward to the feeling of finishing your last exam at the end of the year! Sharing memories of the school year at graduation and seeing the work they put in (and the hours of studying...) pay off after their 5 year journey at GWSC made everything worthwhile. While he acknowledges the challenges of balancing SACs and extracurricular commitments, he highlights that challenging yourself helps build and expand your skills and work habits greater than before. He recommends supporting your friends and classmates, whether you're cheering them on at sports days or running alongside them, who will support you through your own challenges (like sitting out the sports day injured...).

“Be consistent with your habits and behaviours to put yourself in positions in life to create your own luck. Whether that be through meeting people that may help you in the future or continually turning up to chase your dream”.

Glen Waverley Secondary College are very proud to formally induct Ryan Lester into our 'Glenny Alumni Program'. Our school community was fortunate enough to have Ryan visit the school to share with us his experiences and wisdom (and a few signatures for footy memorabilia and photos). The students (and his previous teachers) greatly appreciated his humility and generosity during his time at GWSC. We are proud to have Ryan Lester associated with our school and we look forward to hearing about his future success!

