

Gap around the world

"I worked really hard during Year 12," says Eric, "and I didn't feel as if I needed to rush into uni."

Eric had heard that people who rushed into uni could end up in a course or career they weren't happy with.

"I thought, 'why not take the opportunity to travel and get some life experiences?'"

He signed up with Latitude (a gap outfit that used to be known as Gap Activity Projects) and chose a placement in Labultamata, North Pentacost, Vanuatu! He was teaching Year 5 and 6 students across their entire curriculum, including English, art, science and music.

Eric Woodward finished Year 12 at Trinity College, Melbourne, and took a gap year. Read on...

"I started a school musical, teaching the kids the songs, and helping them organise the production. We held the musical just before I left Labultamata. It was such a great experience – they were so proud of what they had achieved," says Eric.

Eric, 19, is now at the University of Melbourne. He says the amazing experiences on his gap year have finetuned and solidified his career plans.

He reckons his experiences and time away have only added to his social and education life back in Australia. He learnt not to be afraid of what he can achieve.

"Before my gap year, I was thinking locally; now, having that experience, I can see that the world is a massive place and I am thinking more globally."

Eric intends to travel and volunteer and teach for a good few years yet. To help him along his way, he's doing an arts degree, is also studying for a diploma in French, and is looking to take a crack at getting theatre experience.

Eric's Key Career Steps

- Didn't want to rush into further study.
- Took a targeted gap year.
- LOVED the teaching and experience of helping others.
- Is now studying with focus and a goal.

